

Calvinist Contact

A Reformed Weekly

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Futurist urges Christians to be busy restoring earth

Bert Witvoet

BURLINGTON, Ont. — Tom Sine thinks that the future looks bleak if a number of present trends continue. He believes that there is a closing of the Christian mind in the American church. "And in the area of human needs things are not getting better," he says. Furthermore, population growth is outstripping global evangelization and the party is over as far as consumerism is concerned.

Sine likes to talk about the future, even though he is a professor of history, with a focus on American intellectual history, at the universities of Washington and Seattle Pacific. In spite of his historical bent, or perhaps because of it, he is a futurist.

Sine recently spoke at the annual convention of the Reformed Christian Business and Professional Organization. Since his speech was entitled "A wild hope, creating new possibilities for the 21st century," one could expect that he did not stay with the bleak side of the future. But according to some of the conferees (business people are known for finding it difficult to stare at problems too long, Sine admitted), the positive part of the speech should have been given in the morning speech rather than at the afternoon and evening sessions.

New possibilities

Sine pointed out that the emerging challenges of the future are in reality opportunities for the Christian church. He talked about "the incredible pluralization" of society, the graying of North America, a growing economic polarization between the old and the young, a moving from a resource (in the case of Canada) and an industrial (in the case of the U.S.) economy to a lower-paid service economy, cutbacks in social services and changing family structures.

What are the implications for the church, the family and the RCBPO? Sine asked. What will the church do in the light of declining foreign aid budgets? What is the significance of a declining mainline church, and a slightly growing evangelical church

whose funds are going largely into buildings and large staffs?

Biblical vision

"What does it mean to be a believer in this world?" Sine wondered. He mentioned the need for a recovery of a biblical vision of the purposes of God in place of the American dream. "In the early church you could not lay claim to being a follower of God and not commit yourself to the purposes of God," he said.

He urged his audience to choose "whole-life discipleship" rather than compartmentalizing religion. He suggested Christians create families for others, create co-op housing for the young and form small groups for mission.

For the churches Sine had the following advice: rather than pursue an edifice complex, be a church for others; create sponsorships for single-parent families and become partners with churches in big cities or in the Third World.

Sine urged the RCBPO to be an organization for others, too. "Create a mobile team to help others start small businesses in needy neighbourhoods or countries."

Above all, he wanted Christians to choose a lifestyle that is festive and celebrates the Kingdom of God.

Responses to Sine's speeches were mostly positive. In fact, during a brainstorming session in the afternoon, several small groups had come up with their own suggestions regarding being a family, church and organization that anticipates the future.

It was clear from what he said that Sine was looking for an earthy spirituality that recognized that the Kingdom of God has come and is coming. He had several Scripture passages read to underline the promise of a new heaven and earth that will restore the relationships ruptured by the Fall.

By discerning the purposes of God for his creation, Christians themselves can focus on restoration as they face the future, he said.

In this issue:
Summer isn't far away, nor are summer holidays. This is C.C.'s Vacation Issue ...
 pp. 9-12



Photo: This is British Columbia

Canada offers many wondrous places to visit, like Shannon Falls near Squamish, B.C.

Alliance of Christian Schools authorizes court actions

C.C. Staff

ANCASTER, Ont. — The board of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) has approved two separate court actions challenging the education policies of the government of Ontario.

The first action involves religious education courses and the issuing of high school diploma credits. Officials from the Ministry of Education have threatened to withdraw diploma granting status to one of the Alliance high schools unless it stops issuing credits for specific courses in religious instruction.

Alliance executive director, Adrian Guldemond comments that this move strikes at the heart of the Christian school movement: "If we cannot be recognized for our unique Christian perspective then the survival of the entire independent school movement is at stake." Guldemond believes that this move by Ministry officials strikes at the very core of independent schooling. "The Ministry must be challenged on this question and officials must not be allowed to interpret the law in a manner that expands the monopoly of the public school system," he says.

The second action approved by the OACS board is a joint action with the Canadian Jewish Congress over the funding of independent schools. The Alliance and the Congress will challenge the Government's policy of funding only one type of religious school, namely the Separate School System of

the Roman Catholic Church, while not funding other religion-based schools, namely those of Protestant and Jewish traditions.

Ralph Vording, chairperson of the Alliance board, comments that "the Alliance board is very pleased with the co-operation of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC). The time has come for the major school groups to act together decisively and directly to correct the blatant injustices in Ontario education policy." Mr. Murray Segal, chairperson of CJC (Ont.) notes that "co-operation among the major school associations, like the Alliance, will have significant impact in Ontario."

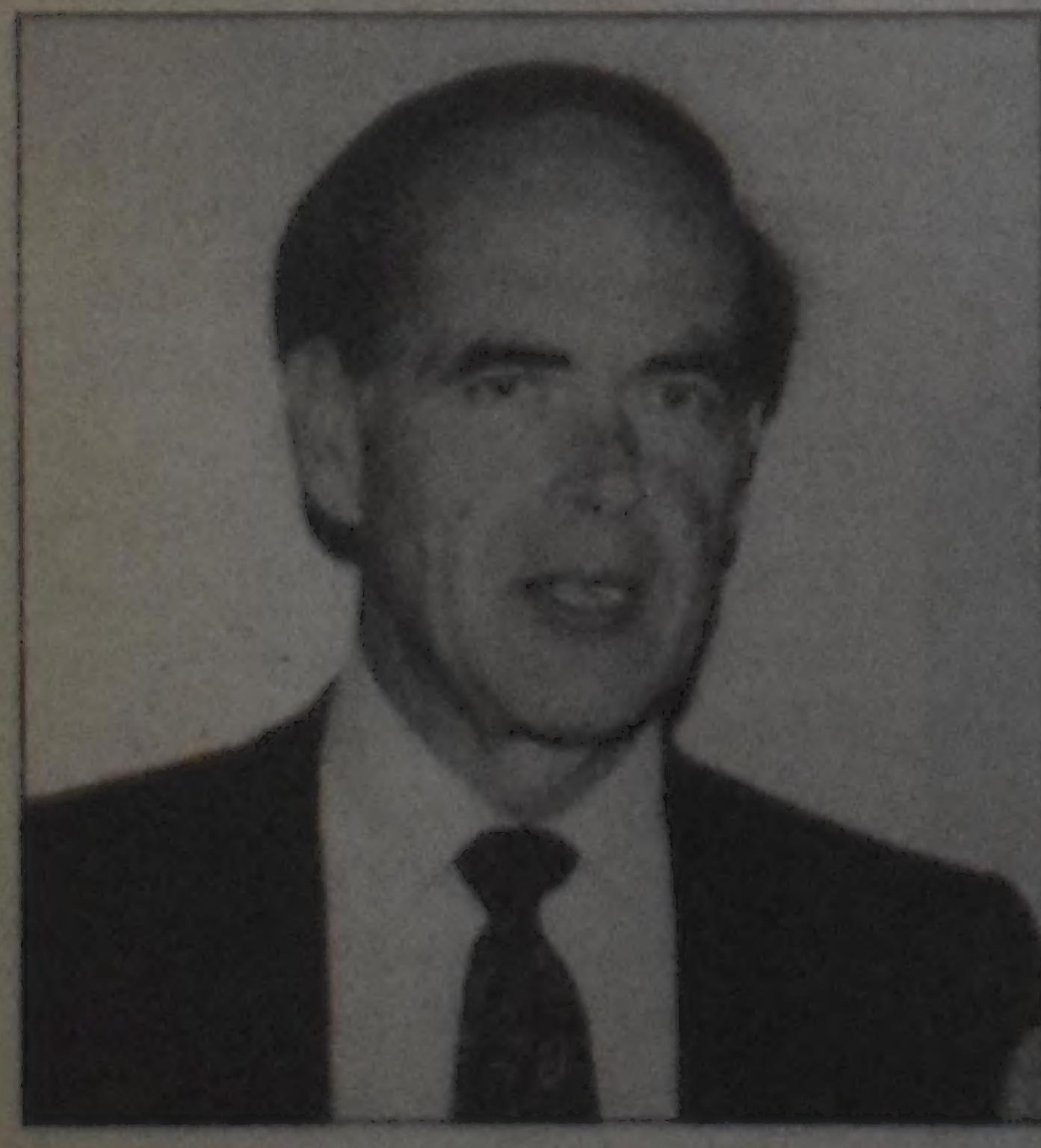
Guldemond says that further details and specifics about the court challenges will be issued in May. The court action on the funding issue will commence immediately; the court action on the freedom of religious instruction will proceed if the Ministry refuses to acknowledge the legitimate diversity and aspirations of the independent school sector in Ontario.

"Independent schools have no alternative but to turn to the courts for justice in education," says Guldemond.

Thinkbit:

Religious fanaticism is pious bias.

Submitted by a reader



Tom Sine

News

Whose rights were primary when The King's dismissed employee?

John Hiemstra

The following article deals with the issue of rights regarding the dismissal of Delwin Vriend from The King's College in Edmonton. It was printed in the April 6 issue of the Calgary Herald. We reprint it here with permission.

The news media recently reported that The King's College, a trans-denominational, Christian liberal arts college in Edmonton, fired laboratory instructor Delwin Vriend for his homosexual lifestyle.

This is a painful and tragic event for him and The King's College collectively. Yet this pain should not prevent us from carefully thinking through the political aspects of this case.

The argument that has one-sidedly been stressed in the news media is that the minority rights of gay and lesbian people were violated by the dismissal of Vriend. The establishment of a clause recognizing the freedom of sexual orientation in the Alberta Individual Rights Protection Act, it has been argued, would solve this problem.

But this simplified thinking ignores the facts of this complex case. Vriend argued that a homosexual lifestyle is acceptable in the Christian community that runs The King's College. The board of management of The King's argued that the practice of

homosexuality was contrary to the biblical way of life, for which the supporting community had started The King's.

Two minorities conflict

Thus, at the heart of the case is a conflict of two sets of minority rights — the right of a Christian community to practise its beliefs in higher education (certainly a minority today) and the right not to be fired for being gay or lesbian. The latter issue is aggravated by the reality of homophobia and the historical fact that gay and lesbian people have often been treated unjustly, not least of all by the church.

Although there are many issues in this case, I will deal only with the political issue of how the Charter of Rights can protect these conflicting minority rights.

On one hand, we have a Christian minority that decided to start a distinctively Christian college to pass on its worldview to its youth in an academic and scholarly manner. The King's appeals to freedom of religion and conscience as well as freedom of association for its

right to exist.

Provided its purpose is acceptable within a free and democratic society — as Christianity has certainly been understood — The King's ought to have the right to exist side by side with other universities. In fact, almost all Canadian universities began as Christian colleges, and some still maintain this character, e.g., Victoria College, St. Joseph's College, etc.

Must be allowed to achieve its purpose

In order for The King's to achieve its purpose it must be able to ensure that its staff agrees with its purpose statement and encourages a way of life broadly in keeping with that statement. Otherwise, The King's could not achieve its purpose, and "freedom of religion" would be reduced to freedom from religion in a secular university not freedom to practise religion in a university setting.

On the other hand, the gay and lesbian minority in Alberta have valid concerns when they fear arbitrary dismissal from employment. If their lifestyle does not clash with bona fide employment criteria as established by the purpose of the institution, which is certainly true in the case of the University of Alberta or Mount Royal College, then there must be no grounds for dismissal based on sexual orientation.

Now to the core of the issue.

The Individual Rights

Protection Act must protect more than individual rights of minorities. The King's College as an institution, and its supporting community as a group, needs protection for living out its vision of life. One may dispute The King's internal decision about homosexual lifestyle and Christianity. Certainly the United Church's position, for example, is different. But the college's policy statement clearly stands within a reasonable, thoughtful Christian tradition when it says The King's will accept a person with a homosexual orientation (no fault of his/her own), but not accept homosexual practice (over which one has a choice).

Disagreement with this viewpoint needs to be taken up internally with The King's and its supporting community. Such discussion is eminently worthwhile and necessary, but it does not answer the political question of what the state ought to do about discrimination in this case.

Politically, we must recognize that the practice of a gay lifestyle runs contrary to The King's purpose as it understands it, and thus must be considered a bona fide employment criterion for The King's. If The King's is not allowed to enforce its purpose statement, it loses the freedom to pass on its community's vision in the arena of university education.

Protecting group rights is not such a strange idea. Canada has always recognized the conflict of group and individual rights in cases where a church fires a minister who rejects its confession. Further, the clash between individual and group rights has been partly addressed in the Constitution with regards to dissentient schools and affirmative action.

Gays and lesbians do need employment rights protected, as we all do. But when group and individual rights clash — as they do in this case — then we ought to think twice about adding another individual right to the act without simultaneously addressing the protection of minority groups in their institutions.

The idea of protecting group and institutional rights may also become an issue for gay and lesbian groups and institutions. For example, a gay and lesbian support group for AIDS victims would, in principle, lose its right to dismiss an employee whom they discovered had been overtly campaigning against homosexuality.

If The King's may not enforce its vision statement on its employees, neither could a gay and lesbian medical support group.

John Hiemstra is completing his PhD in political science at the University of Calgary. He's a former director for Citizens for Public Justice Alberta and lives in Calgary.



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Human rights abuses in Latin America

Robert VanderVennen

TORONTO: The annual summary of human rights abuses in seven Latin American countries expresses concern about disappearances, torture, summary executions and the economic crisis, reports the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA).

Guatemala saw the worst violence in five years of civilian government last year. After years of silence, the U.S. finally expressed its disapproval of the human rights situation there. It charged the government with being "either unable or unwilling to apprehend or prosecute those involved," says ICCHRLA's recent report.

Health care in Guatemala has so deteriorated that an outbreak of measles caused the

death of 1,000 children last February. ICCHRLA concludes that "as long as the military remains in control... all those who work for peaceful change will remain targets of violent repression."

Columbia is shamefully dishonoured by the fact that there were more deaths due to political violence than in any other country in the hemisphere.

In Honduras the new government of Rafael Leonardo Callejas received a virtually bankrupt country, says ICCHRLA. The structural adjustment demanded by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund has resulted in severe food shortages, labour unrest and increased repression.

"Peru is [at present]

experiencing a situation of severe violence and of deep economic, social and institutional crisis," concluded a high level World Council of Churches delegation in October 1990. Peru experienced a shocking increase in violence in 1990; it is a major source of coca leaves for the processing of cocaine.

Chile still holds 217 political prisoners and 2,000 people with proceedings still pending for alleged "political" offenses.

El Salvador's war continues to bring death threats, repression, killing and military attacks which include bombings of entire communities.

The powerful in many of these countries continue to exploit their people by force, the committee notes. Pillage has brought high debts in most countries which require enormous human sacrifice from the majority. Short of forced intervention in these countries, ICCHRLA holds the injustice up to shame, and calls on Canadian Christians to recognize the problems and pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are victims.

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MADRID VIENNA COPENHAGEN AMSTERDAM

Pressreview

Carl D. Tuyl



Parliament prorogued, which is a fancy way of saying that its session was discontinued, which is a fancy way of saying that Monsieur sent the whole bunch of them home. It is, however, not quiet on the hill. Ottawa is churning out cabinet-shuffle rumours faster than a classroom can evacuate at the sound of the bell. The scuttlebutt has Joe Clark being squeezed out of External Affairs to make room for Finance Minister Wilson who is suffering from burnout in that portfolio. Mr. Clark has gone public with his objection to such lateral movement. NDP's Nelson Riis said that Wilson's legacy "will be scorched earth and the Americanization of Canada." Audrey McLaughlin is taking the red banner around the country on a 13-city national tour to raise her profile and to sing the praise of NDP.

★★★

Tell me, do you know what the Dutchman's Pipe is? Got you puzzled, eh? It's other official name is *aristolochia durior*, a quick-growing, hardy perennial with large leaves.

★★★

The constitutional impasse continues to inspire politicians from far and wide. Even Jack So, executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Centre felt moved to express his preference for a united Canada. And guess who else wanted the floor on the subject? John Core, chairperson of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board.

Wagging his finger, he said, "If Quebec separates, we can't conceive of an arrangement that would allow Quebec dairy farmers to preserve their current share of the market." There! And from Quebec itself, the province where the bars are open later than anywhere in Canada, rose the roar of Bloc Quebec leader Lucien Bouchard, who told one and all that he was mightily peeved with Mexico's President Carlos Salinas. Salinas said that a united Canada would be a better trading partner than a divided country.

"Humiliating," said Mr. Bouchard, who by noon already sports a five o'clock shadow. I don't think Carlos will lose any sleep over Bouchard's gripe.

★★★

New Brunswick was really in the news. First Tory leader Barbara Baird freaked out her Tory-blue supporters by resigning as leader of the party a few months before an expected election. She cited infighting between the old guard and the new-wave Tories as her reason.

Then Premier Frank McKenna ran into an angry demonstration of civil servants who rather loudly protested his wage freeze. The demonstration looked like something straight out of Iran. The premier's slash-and-cut budget finds no favour anywhere, proving again that everybody is in favour of cutting deficits as long as it happens at the expense of someone else.

Over on the other coast, Rita Johnston tried in vain to get rid of Wilhelms, who is clinging to his seat in the provincial legislature like he was stuck on it with Velcro. Trouble *mare usque mare*.

★★★

And how's this for imagery: "Yesterday I saw the wind. It was playing in my dog's hair." Better than the dry stuff which issues from Statistics Canada, where diligent pollsters have found that Canadians watched TV an average of 23.4 hours per week in 1989. This was the lowest total of the past decade — one hour and six minutes less than the all-time high of 24.3 hours in 1984. Getting bored with the tube, are we?

★★★

Interesting also was a study done by the Grocery Products Manufacturers of Canada. The study concluded that grocery spending hasn't gone up for three years. Why, you ask? The GPMC has the answer: it is because of the declining number of teenagers. Probably true. Teenagers used to stage raids on our fridge all hours of the day and night. Pierre Berton, who churns out best-sellers like the dairy does butter, spoke to a convention of poultry farmers. He said that the ultimate goal of the animal rights movement is to remove all animal products from the human diet. Would be hard on MacDonalds, wouldn't it?

★★★

The Kurd situation raises many questions, and not

only about the management efficiency at the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. For instance, was the hesitancy in coming to the rescue of these people caused by the coalition's desire not to offend the Turks? The Turks are traditionally hostile to the Kurds and there is a U.S. air base in Turkey.

Or was a Hussein in power in the end preferred above a Kurd or Shiite government? Fact is, that the euphoria of the victory in Kuwait has a bitter after-taste. Especially the *New York Times* was very critical of the Bush administration's initial lackadaisical attitude. The pressure of the media, especially the horrible TV pictures of human misery, was necessary to provoke the White House into action. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker wound up his Mideast shuttle diplomacy in Geneva. The latest proposal is to hold a regional Arab-Israeli peace conference.

★★★

The Queen plans to give her daughter-in-law, Princess Diana, a huge Tudor-style mansion that is situated on a 28.329-hectare lot. Imagine having to mow the lawn there.

★★★

First prize for profundity this week goes to Nikolai Volenko, chairperson of the committee representing miners in Donetsk in the Soviet Union. Said Nikolai: "When the shops are full that's economics; but when the shops are empty that's politics." The opposite: first prize for simplemindedness goes to U.S. Congressman Bob Dorman, Republican from Orange County, Calif. This Bob fellow wants all the Vietnamese boat people to go to Kuwait. He sees that as the ultimate solution of the world's troubles.

★★★

The following observation might not prove Einstein's theory but it nevertheless shows the relativity of certain concepts of prosperity. Russians are flocking to Poland to work and haggle on farmers' markets. Poles, desperate to escape what they see as poverty, flock in turn across the border to the D-marks of eastern Germany. Former East Germans,

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however, flock to the affluent western part of Germany, and former West Germans travel even further west to the Netherlands where they assemble *en masse* on the beaches. Everybody going west.

And speaking about Germany: the people who not so long ago demonstrated against communism in the streets of Leipzig are back in the streets again. This time their anger is directed to no one less than Chancellor Helmut Kohl who is today's villain for not bringing the riches that East Germans anticipated. Instead there is increasing unemployment. The euphoria of unification has turned into *Angst* about the future.

★★★

In Norway there's a guy called Inge Vidar Svingen who enjoys beds of nails. The other day he laid back on a bed of 270 six-inch spikes and slid spikes and all down a ski slope. He came through with a few scratches but no real punctures. Alas, Norway is such a backward country that nobody seems to have treated his accomplishments very seriously. "Abroad I am treated like a big entertainer," he claimed. "Here at home I'm seen as a half-wit." Take heart, Inge; we don't think you're a half-wit. We think you're no-doubt a whole-wit.

★★★

If the members of the OPEC oil cartel think times are tough they should consider the plight of coffee producers. World coffee prices have almost

halved. In the Netherlands, though, you still pay a buck-and-a-half for a miniature cup of the stuff.

★★★

W e're in spring's rite of passage: cleaning up, digging up, filling out tax forms, checking tackle, watching the tulips form buds, seeing the birds mate, getting synod agendas and eating fiddleheads. What a lovely time it is.

★★★

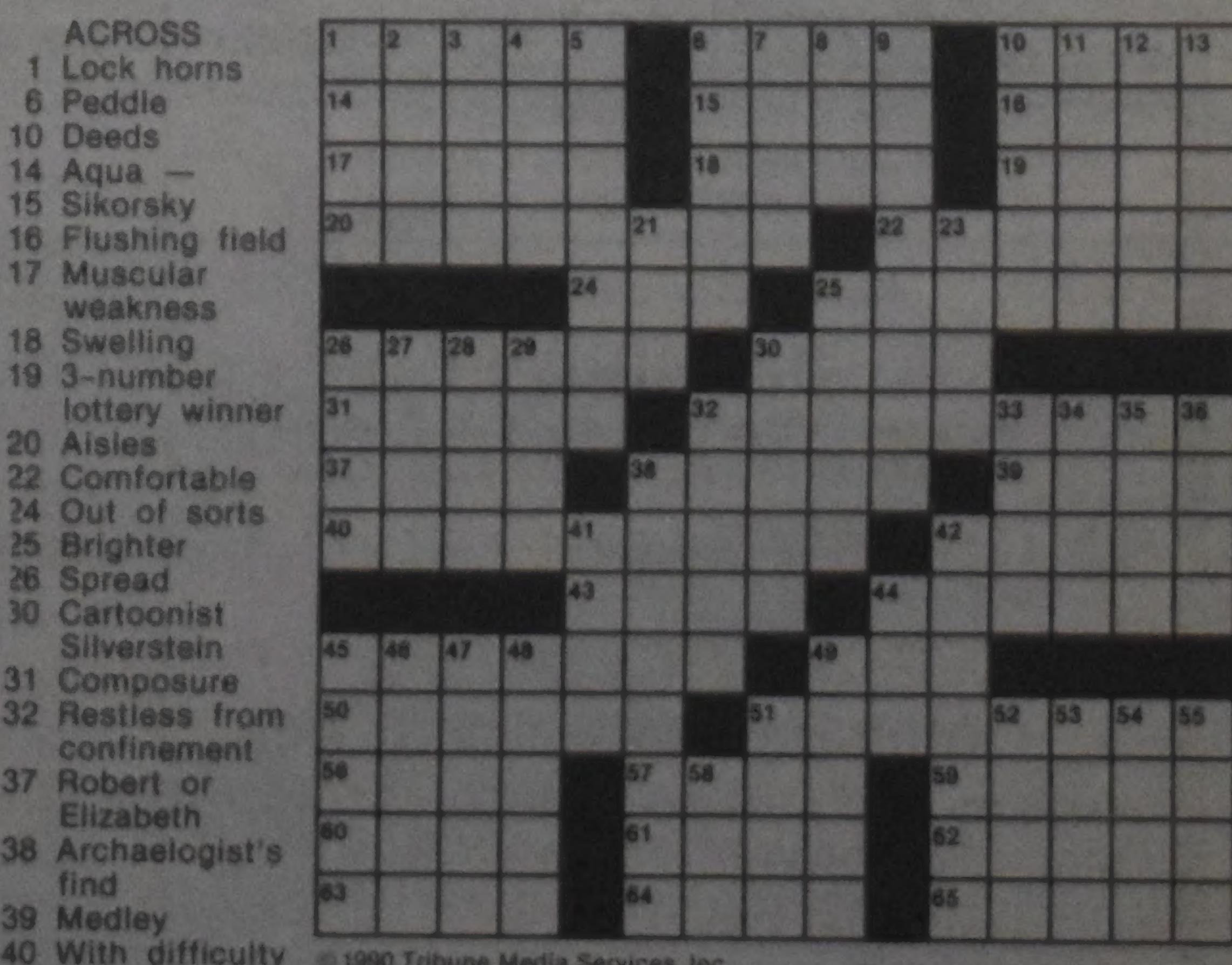
Let me finish with some more imagery taken from the *Montreal Gazette*. A four-year-old boy who had curled up in front of the TV, therewith depriving his leg of proper circulation, said, "Dad, my leg is full of worms." Or this one: "The brook runs back of the house, and when it turns, it stumbles." Who says a picture is worth a thousand words?

Well, there you have it. No news this week from Good Czar Gorbachev; no news from Monsieur; and no news from the Tuyl farm. Yes, I did rent a plot of land and I will keep you informed about my agricultural prowess.

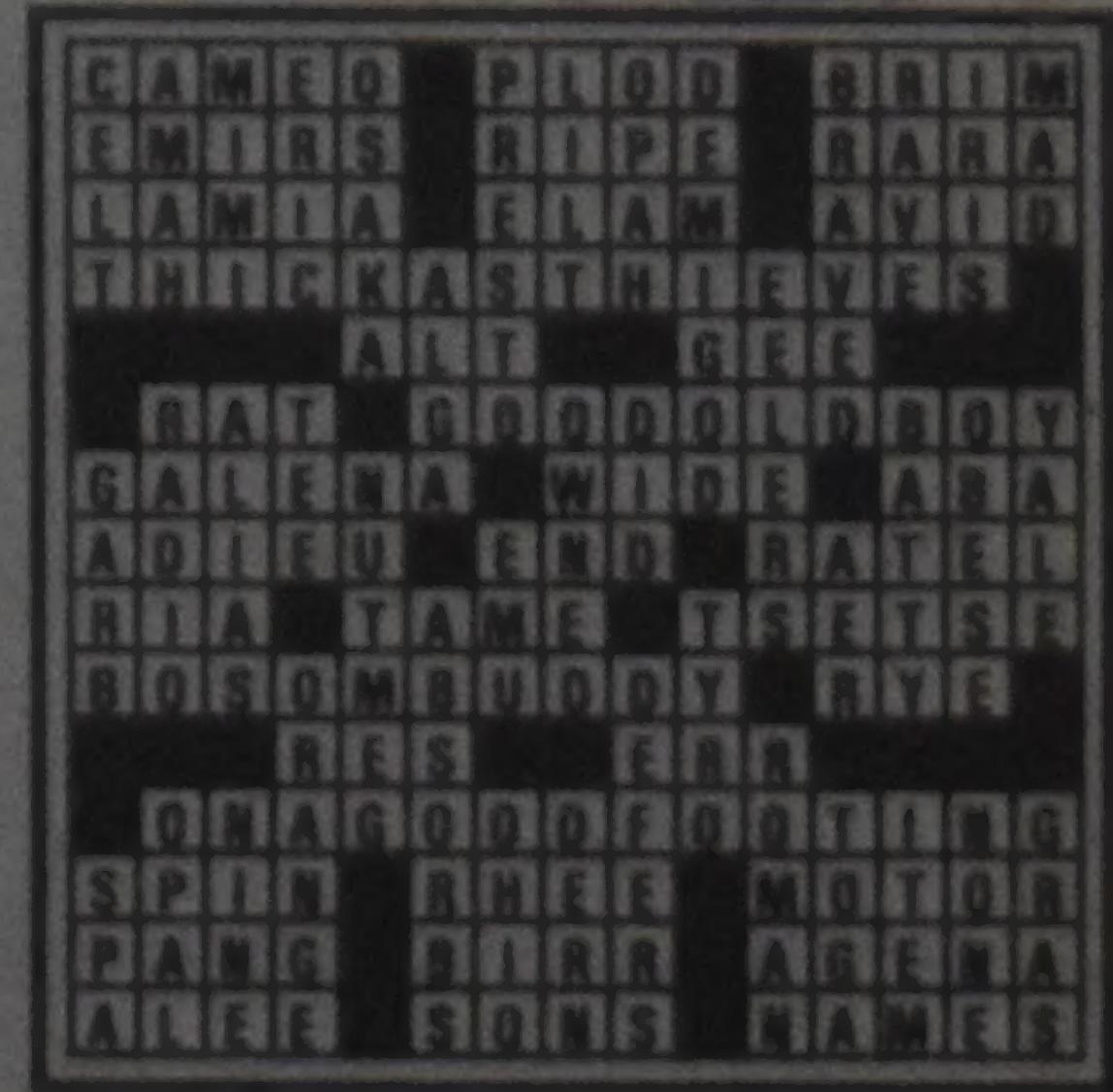
Carl Tuyl is a chaplaincy co-ordinator. He lives in Kingston, Ont.

Weekly puzzle

by I. Miller



Last Week's Puzzle



47. Weapon, 48. Director Lubitsch, 49. Postpone, 50. Glove part, 51. Curve, 52. Shane's portrayer, 53. Nobelist Wiesel, 54. Headliner Headliner, 55. Collector's car

Editorial

Calvinist Contact

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No immediate answers for the suffering Kurds

The television screen almost faithfully reproduces the disaster that plays itself out on the mountains between Turkey and Iraq and between Iran and Iraq. The camera pans a few hundred of the estimated two million Kurds who find themselves homeless, cold, sick, weary, hungry and dying.

My mind plays a trick on me. For a few seconds it looks as if I'm looking at a crowd from biblical times coming down a Judean mountain to hear Jesus talk about the Kingdom of Heaven and to seek healing and forgiveness. But then the sight of Turkish soldiers preventing people from going further into Turkey and of people fighting over food delivered by trucks breaks that illusion. There are no miracles here and the weather is unforgiving. Instead of words of comfort and vision there are only the sounds of people crying and yelling. One man holds his dead grandchild. Another supports an elderly woman who should have been sitting out her retirement near her children's home.

What I see is an unspeakable tragedy. In my heart I wish that God would strike down Saddam Hussein and his bloody henchmen.

Who is responsible?

But what do you say to a Kurdish woman who has trekked through the mud for 10 days with her husband and little boy, and who, with tears streaming down her face and in a voice that is both gentle and passionate, accuses President Bush of what is happening to her and her people? The Americans brought their armies to protect one million Kuwaitis, she says to an elderly Western doctor, raising one finger to represent the one million. "Why don't they protect five million Kurds and Shiites?" Five fingers are held up now. The Western doctor looks at her with eyes filled with compassion. He does not answer her; he does not argue her point; he just listens. A little later a Kurdish journalist calls Bush a military giant and a moral dwarf. There is a lot of anger in these voices.

So why didn't the U.N.-sponsored American-led coalition forces protect the Kurds and Shiites? It's a very difficult question to answer when you're face to face with a casualty of the aftermath of the Gulf War.

There is a legitimate answer to be given, of course. The United Nations charter protects the boundaries of every member country as they were when the country joined. This means that the Kuwaitis had a case and the Kurds and Shiites do not. Even if justice is on the side of the Kurds and Shiites, as it is, the United Nations charter does not give anyone the right to invade Iraq for the purpose of stopping an internal bloodbath. Just like it did not give anyone the right to intervene when Idi Amin slaughtered thousands of Ugandans or when Red Guards in China killed thousands during

an ideological purge.

New criteria?

Should the United Nations amend the charter so that it can intervene militarily in times of civil war and internal unrest? I don't think so. First of all, such an amendment would never pass in an organization that is represented by governments interested in preserving the status quo within their own countries. Secondly, the United Nations is not able to judge or solve the internal problems of all nations. Protecting territorial integrity is probably the closest it can come to settling disputes militarily.

The human race once again has to get used to the fact that it cannot find a solution to all the problems caused by human sin. We can never hope to establish agencies that can administer or enforce absolute justice. All means of justice and peace are at best rough instruments that restrain the worst forms of evil in societies.

That is not to say that the United Nations could not set new criteria for non-military intervention when a government practises genocide on its own people. The request by the European Community to put Saddam Hussein on trial for war crimes, including what he has done to the Kurds, is a good move in that direction.

A matter of wisdom

But rather than blame President Bush for not intervening militarily in the present situation, we would do well once again to ask ourselves in the light of what followed the decision to push Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait — the ecological disasters, the death of thousands of soldiers and civilians and the present refugee problem — what does a war really solve?

The question for me is not "Were we right in fighting the Iraqis?" but "Were we wise and were we loving?" If these questions make me a functional pacifist (I'm thinking of Professor John Bolt's two excellent articles in the April 5 and 12 issues on the role of Canadian churches), so be it. Sometimes I'm a functional bleeding-heart liberal or a functional red-neck conservative, depending on where other people stand who disagree with me.

I want to come back to what I wrote in my first editorial on the war in the February 15 issue: "There are no solutions for the great sickness that hangs like a pall over the nations of this earth.... What does the world gain from the Gulf War?" At this time I can add to that, "We know what the world has lost."

I'm glad the Western doctor did not answer the woman whose heart was crying out to him. There is no satisfying answer to be given in the midst of such deep human suffering, except to help as much as possible and to wait patiently for the Lord to bring about justice in his good time.

BW

Letters

Forum was helpful

In recent weeks I have been interested to read the extended discussion in the pages of *Calvinist Contact* about the public forum at McMaster University on the topic: "Can the homosexual be our neighbour?"

As ecumenical chaplain at McMaster University I express my thanks to Rev. Geisterfer for arranging the forum. With

him, I regret the unexpected cancellations and refusals from several Christians opposed to gay rights who had been invited to be part of the panel and which made the panel appear unbalanced.

Even with this disappointment, however, the forum accomplished several important things. The non-prejudicial and open discussion

that Rev. Geisterfer and Rev. Pierik (as moderator of the forum) encouraged has helped to diminish some of the anti-pathy and mistrust that has been felt by the gay and lesbian community on campus towards the Christian church. Prior to the forum they felt that the Christian church was at worst a closed-minded enemy and at best irrelevant. Now they see us

as a community that can listen and think with integrity as well as it can preach and pronounce.

Also, the forum managed to raise the question (and the fact) of homosexuals and homosexuality within the Christian community in a way that was non-threatening, dialogic and sensitive. No one answer was presumed correct; all understandings were open to

free examination and discussion.

In this regard I regret that you suspect a hidden agenda other than the public agenda of open discussion, and I offer my thanks to Rev. Geisterfer and all the forum participants.

Brian Donst
Ecumenical Chaplain
McMaster University

Keep Pandora's box closed

The brother of a professor of philosophy has taken the editor of *Calvinist Contact* to task for daring to defend the biblical standpoint on human sexuality and for having the *chutzpah* to suggest, in Edith Bunker's famous words of admonition that vociferous and active gays and lesbians should "stifle themselves."

Mr. Willem Hart is right: this contentious issue of same-sex relationships is a Pandora's box, though he didn't add that it was a box of evil, misfortunes and miseries.

The editor of a Christian newspaper like *Calvinist Contact* would be amiss if he did not come out against a philosophy and lifestyle which is in opposition to the biblical conclusion on the matter.

No amount of words can defend the indefensible, and where the editor of C.C. is concerned, he has a responsibility to his readers and an accountability to a holy God, a

God who loves the sinner but hates sin in any form, shape or guise.

Whenever defenders or promoters of such questionable activities as a "gay lifestyle" are eager to be heard in the media, I am strongly reminded of the lines from Alexander Pope's "Essay on Criticism":

*Words are like leaves,
and where they most abound,
Much fruit of sense
beneath is rarely found.*

Perhaps for the good of everybody it may be wise for that section of the gay community who clamour to be heard if they would follow Mrs. Bunker's advice and quietly "stifle themselves." I'm sure there certainly would be more peace in the camp.

John Plaatjes
Collingwood, Ont.

No manufactured justification

I want to express my firmest support with your stand on Romans 1 (C.C. March 8). To re-interpret part of this chapter in the way suggested by Dr. Hart leads to a manufactured justification for what Scripture condemns.

We must make no mistakes here. When the Apostle commands us to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3) he includes immorality of both the heterosexual and homosexual varieties.

Christians who are insensitive to the deep struggles of others within and without the Christian community are forgetful of their own miserable origins. I realize that contemporary understanding and compassionate pastoral concern have left much to be

desired on the part of many believers and the churches in general. The good news is this: Romans 1 understood in the light of 1 Cor. 6:11 and other texts proclaims the message that we can be washed and

sanctified in Christ by sovereign re-creating grace.

May God give you, as editor, the courage to go on and on.

Jack Hielema
Smithers, B.C.

Can't 'rationalize away' passages on homosexuality

Willem Hart's letter in the Mar. 22 C.C. says "It is in fact remarkable that a subject scarcely touched on in the Bible generates such energetic and vociferous condemnation." The Bible does speak on homosexuality in both the Old and New Testaments and it is very direct and to the point. Genesis 19, Leviticus 18 and the disputed Romans 1 passage are

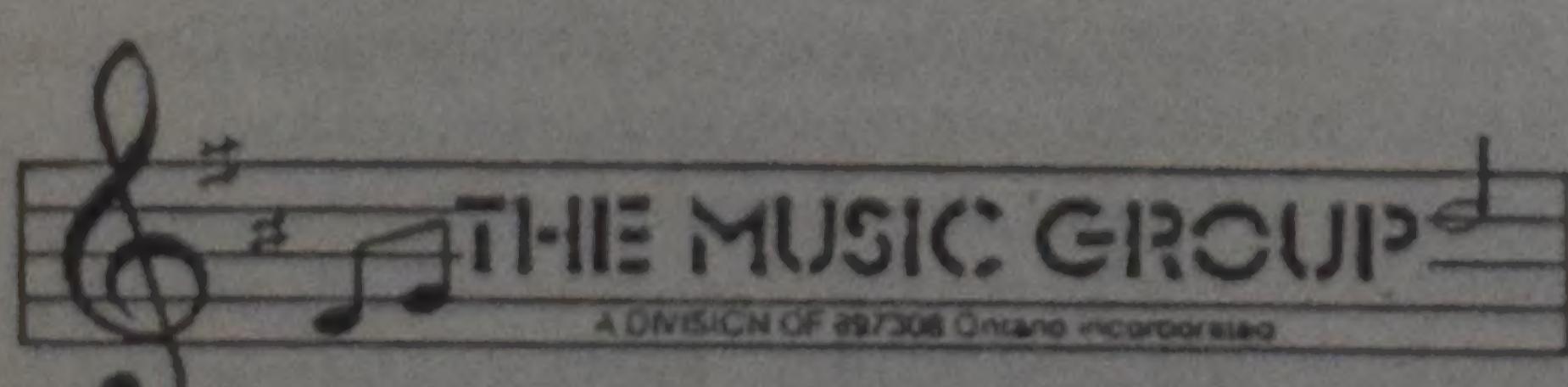
very straightforward.

If we rationalize away these passages to justify homosexual practices then our credibility regarding the interpretation of other Scripture is also to be questioned.

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Cinema/Arts

Faith not easily come by

An open letter to five artists 'working on the fringe'

TO: John Brown, Marc De Guerre, Peter Dykhuys, Geoffrey Holdsworth and Betty Spackman. And to Gerard Pas, curator.

Each time I went to Redeemer College these last six weeks, I have been drawn to your show *Working on the Fringe*. Your work has been a great gift to me. I carried away images, colours and textures that continue to meld and fuse with what I see in the world around me.

How timely it was to "live with" "The Desolation of Abomination" in the fallout of the Iraqi war. The raucous colour of the river of blood, the almost surreal and eerily tattered clouds with their somehow cloying colour, the

men and women crucified — all this found echoes for me in the war and its prime-time coverage. There was the obscenity of high-tech cameras on the noses of warheads, of the sanitized language (friendly fire), and the desolation wrecked on creation.

The work called "The Delicate Family" showed much suffering. It suggested that the family fabric is often worn to the point of tearing. It showed the image of God (male, female) wounded and broken as it comes together in the communion of relationships.

How appropriate and wonderful it would be to see "The Fire in Her" in the lobby of a church. The large black

canvas is alive with fire and a woman picking up coals. She is crying. Her very tears are coals. And if one looked closely, there were other hands there, in the darkness, touching a coal to her lips. Instead of a fire extinguisher on her back, there is fire. (Don't quench the Holy Spirit.)

Spackman calls to mind so many biblical images of fire: God's fierce love, the crucible through which Christ walked. Severe suffering comes to mind, a burning that leaves one scarred and forever limping. A testing fire that sears away lies, exposes motive. And finally it brings to my mind the Spirit, touching hot coals to stammering, inept lips, or to fingers wrestling the Word through paintbrush and sculpture. All this echoes, plays and calls through this work.

In that sense, "The Fire in Her" got the spirit of the entire exhibit, for me. Some works were jolting and others left me scratching my head the first few times I saw them. But I am thankful for what you are daring to face. So much in our culture is trite capitulation to the lie that life is simple, the past is nostalgic, and the future, shining; that love and faith are easily come by and never lost, and that truth is straightforward. You may be working on the fringe, but may that experience continue to purify your work and keep you on the cutting edge.

Agnes Kramer-Hamstra
Dorchester, Ont.

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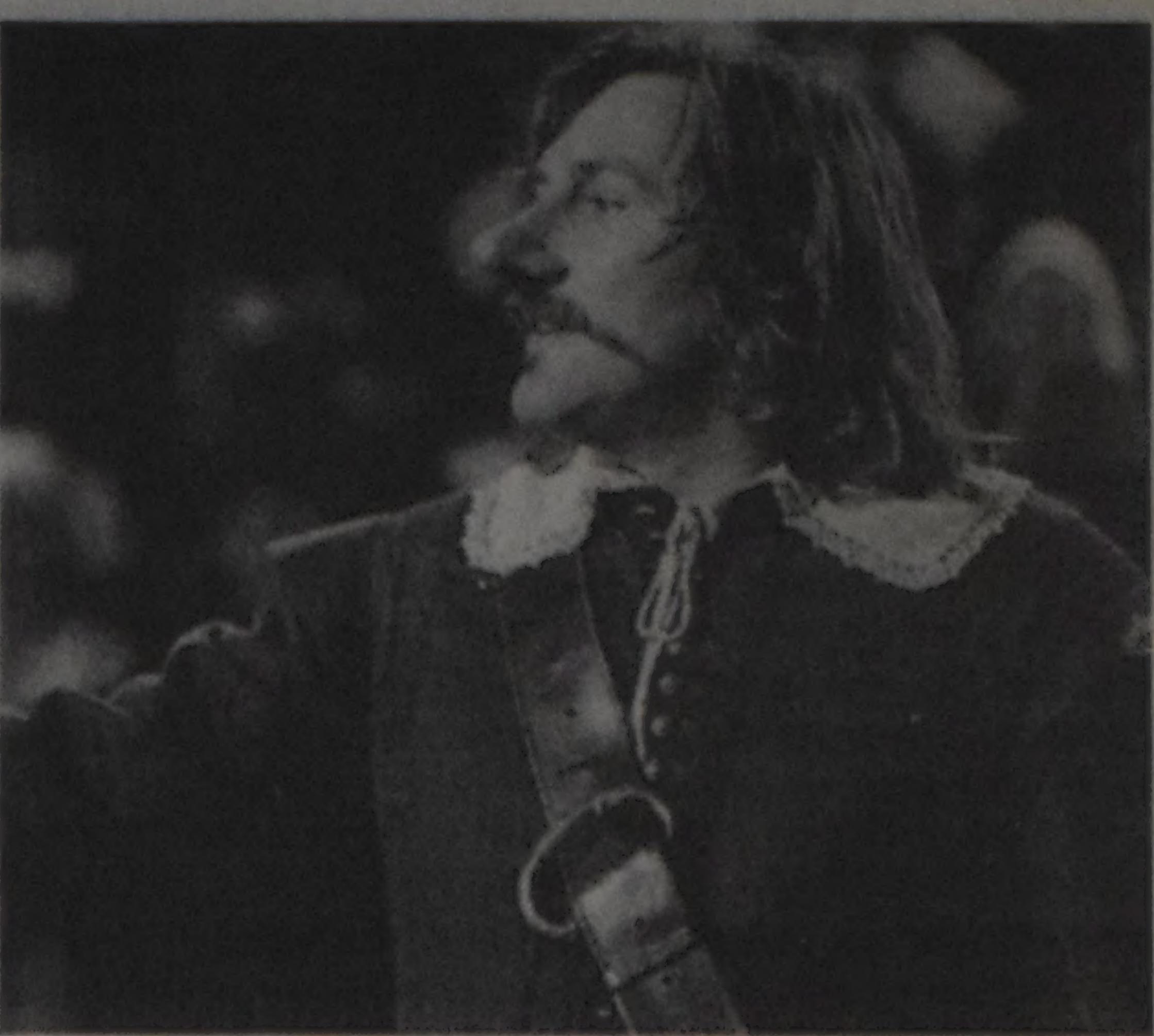
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Cinema summaries

Marian Van Til



Cyrano de Bergerac

Rated PG

Stars Gerard Depardieu, Anne Brochet

Directed by Jean-Paul Rappeneau, based on the play by Edmond Rostand; in French, with English subtitles by Anthony Burgess

Cyrano de Bergerac is the best-known of the four theatrical works by French playwright Edmond Rostand (1868-1918). Rostand wrote *Cyrano* in 1897, still drawing on 19th-century Romanticism at a time when most writers had turned to a much more realistic and "natural" style.

In the play *Cyrano* is both a swashbuckling sword fighter and a sensitive poet who is painfully inhibited with women because of his self-consciousness about his unusually large nose. Hopelessly in love with his cousin, Roxanne, but convinced she will never love him because of his perceived ugliness, he contents himself with being the true author of the poetic love letters to Roxanne from a handsome but tongue-tied suitor. Roxanne recognizes the greatness of spirit in the letters and falls in love with their author, assuming that to be her suitor.

Though Rostand called his play an "heroic comedy" and it is delightfully funny, it contains a serious under-current and tragic climax easily capable of eliciting tears from the audience.

The oft-performed play is a touching, imaginative embellishment on the life of the real Cyrano who lived in the first half of the 17th century. He was a free-thinking social critic who was known for his long nose, his sword fighting, and as the author of a comedy, a tragedy and two forward-looking science fiction works.

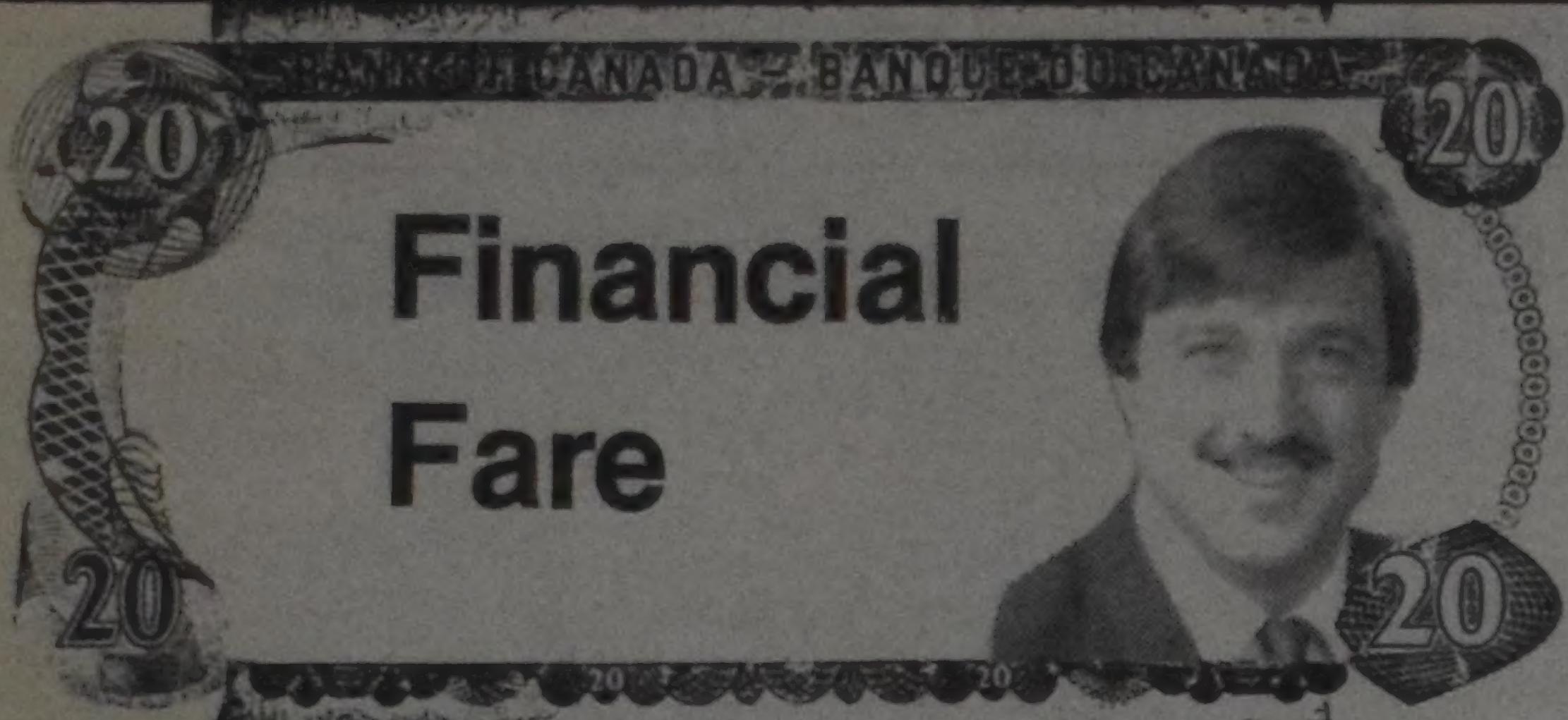
It is hard to imagine the play coming to more exquisite life than it does in this film. Seeing Gerard Depardieu as Cyrano is to realize that his performance overshadows previous depictions and will dwarf new depictions of the role (on film or in the theatre) for the foreseeable future as well. At age 42, Depardieu has made some 70 films, but this is the role that is uniquely his. (A 1950 film version starred Jose Ferrer; comedian Steve Martin adeptly up-dated the story in his 1987 film, *Roxanne*.)

If an actor does not handle the swaggering, public side of Cyrano with great skill, the character easily becomes a less-than-likeable caricature, unable to evoke much sympathy for the pained, introverted side of the man. Depardieu expertly captures that tension in Cyrano, creating a three-dimensional, fully human person about whom we come to care.

Director Rappeneau knows how to create just the right kind of visual atmosphere. The story's historical setting — its costumes, recreation of 17th-century French theatre, street and battle scenes — looks, sounds, and feels authentic in every detail. The story concerns not only Cyrano's unrequited love but also humorously depicts the real-life Cyrano's satirizing of the French aristocracy of the time.

This two-and-one-half-hour version of *Cyrano de Bergerac* wholly absorbs the viewer (making it seem shorter). It engages not only the heart but the intellect as well. Though Cyrano's particular way of dealing with his "handicap" may strike many modern viewers as self-destructive and unnecessarily tragic, nevertheless, anyone who has ever felt like an ugly duckling — and perhaps that includes most of the human race — will find this film emotionally resonant.

News/Opinion



Financial Fare

Leonard Bick

For many Christians, the making, spending or saving of money causes stress and concern. Why is this so? We have often heard that "money is the root of all evil" which misquotes Paul in 1 Timothy 6. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil," Paul says. This verse tells us that money is not necessarily the problem; it is the *attitude* that surrounds money that is the problem.

These thoughts lead to an interesting question: What is a Christian attitude towards money? I believe that the making, spending and investing of money is a matter of stewardship.

Jesus speaks about stewardship through a parable in Matthew 25 and Luke 19. The following is from Matthew 25 in the NIV Bible:

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.... Then he went on his journey....

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more." His master replied, "well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

The man with the two talents also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two talents; see I have gained two more." His master replied, "Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Then the man who had received the one talent came. "Master," he said, "I know that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

His master replied, "You wicked lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest."

Jesus' primary message here is stewardship. Jesus uses money and business to make his point. I think this parable also makes several points about money itself.

Stewardship and attitudes towards money

First of all, not everyone will be given the same amount of monetary wealth. Second, attitudes about the use of money are more important than having money in the first place. This is made clear by the resentful third servant who felt slighted and buried his money because he did not have as much to work with.

Third, the parable makes a value judgment on what to do with money when the master admonishes his servant, but indicates that the least he could have done was to put the talent with the bankers to earn interest.

A notion about money that I have observed in many Christians is that "wealth is bad." Wealth is a relative concept; and relative to most of humankind, the overwhelming majority of North Americans are very wealthy.

A common approach to financial stewardship among Christians is to work hard and try to spend as little as possible. This approach can lead to some accumulation of savings but an important productive aspect of stewardship is often left out. Instead of investing in "the engines that drive the economy" (shares of businesses, commercial activity, etc.), an overwhelming majority of people merely put money in the bank. They don't really stop to think about a more productive way to make money work.

Set your own house in order

Look back at the parable. The first two servants wisely nurtured what they had been entrusted with to double their money. They did this by engaging in commercial activity. The third servant didn't even bother to put his talent in the bank to earn interest. The notion shared by some is that those who have accumulated more wealth than most of us are either greedy or dishonest. This is reminiscent of the third servant who made excuses for his lack of stewardship and resented his more successful associates.

I think the parable tells us not to concern ourselves with someone else's talents but to concentrate on our own. We are to look at our own talents and gifts, which include the ability to earn and utilize money.

This column will appear biweekly and will inform readers on financial topics surrounding investment and taxation. This, in turn, should provide some answers on how to use money more productively.

Leonard Bick is a financial planner from Ancaster, Ontario.

Mennonite Central Committee supports Quaker request to redirect military taxes

WINNIPEG, Man. (MCC) — Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada has joined Canadian Quakers in asking for an amendment to the Income Tax Act to allow Canadians to redirect tax money from the military to other social purposes.

In a March 27 letter to Minister of Justice Kim Campbell and Minister of National Revenue Otto Jelinek, MCC's acting executive director Larry Kehler expresses support for a request from the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for the amendment. The Quakers have requested that the Act be amended to allow individuals to take a percentage of their income tax money, equal to the percentage of the federal government's budget that is used for military purposes, and have it redirected for other social purposes.

The letter was approved at the March 15-16 MCC Canada executive committee meeting in Winnipeg. Executive committee member Edna Peters of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada (CMC) said that "we are sending a message to our government that we are not in favour of military spending."

CMC representative Esther Epp-Tiessen added that "we are not trying to impose Christian standards on the government, or trying to dismantle the military. We are simply asking that the government respect the opinions of people who want their tax money used for humanitarian purposes."

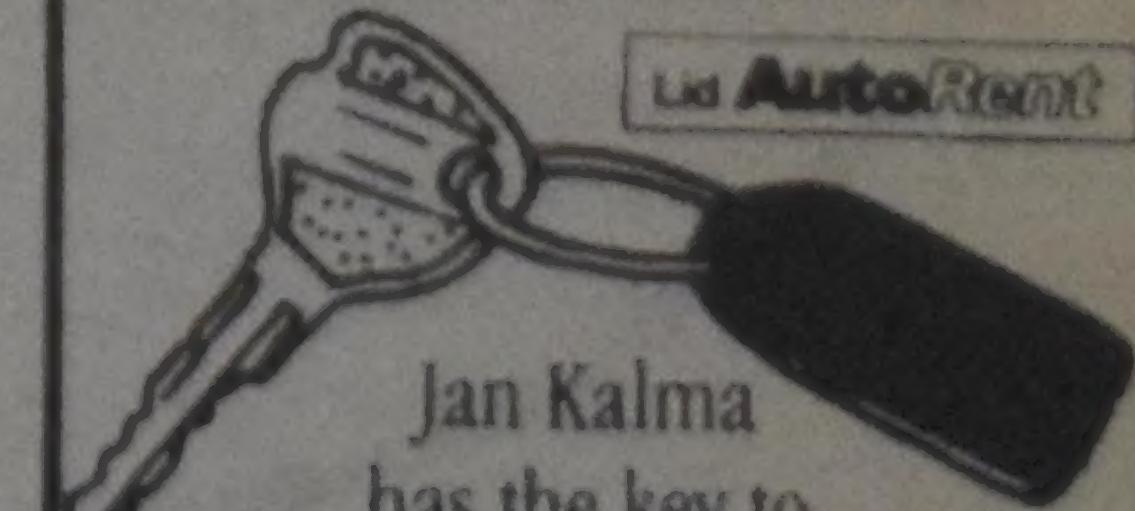
During the meeting, the recent Canadian military involvement in the Gulf war was mentioned as a reason why a change in the tax law was important. "Six months ago we wouldn't have believed that

Canada could do what it did in the Gulf. But now we know we are capable of those things," said Peters.

The letter notes that some Mennonite church members are already redirecting the military portion of their tax money, even though it is not legal to do so. They are saying that their action is comparable to the refusal of Mennonites to participate in the military during World War II. At that time the federal government provided conscientious objectors with an opportunity to serve their country in a non-violent way through alternative service, which found around 11,000 Canadian men, including 7,500 Mennonites, working in hospitals, forestry, agriculture and other social services.

The letter concludes by saying that "we do not encourage people to break the law. We are hoping that the government will change the law so that such actions can be taken on a legal basis."

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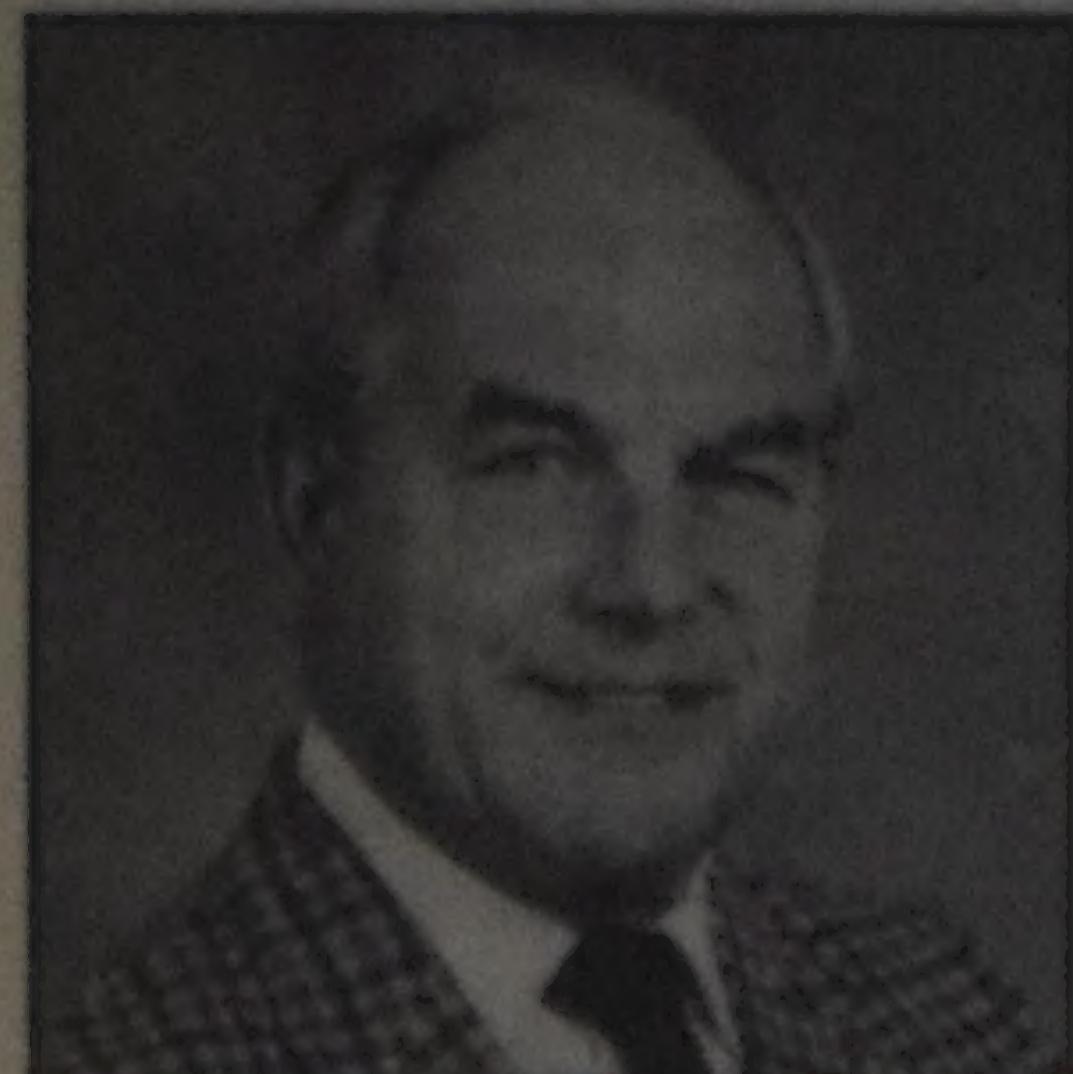
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Church

Marian Van Til, page editor



Canadian Church Scene

Jacob Kuntz

Post-war reflections

It was to be expected that church magazines would reflect on the "merits of the Gulf War after hostilities had come to an end. It strikes us that in general there is no sound of triumph in these considerations: more a tone of defeat. 'We all lost,' was the title of an editorial in *Mennonite Brethren Herald*. 'Questions remain,' said the *Anglican Journal*. 'The losses in winning' was the subject of *The Mennonite Reporter*. And *The War Cry* spoke about the Gulf War as "an exercise in failure." Only *Reformed Perspective* had some positive things to say about the war.

Here are some of the first comments we gathered from a number of church magazines:

M.B. Herald, March 22:

"Stories of what really happened during the six weeks of the war will likely be coming to us for many months, perhaps years. Even as the stories come in, many will be attempting to understand what all this means. What really was at stake? What was accomplished through all this destruction? What does it mean for Iraq, for the world, for you and me?"

"Superficial answers to these questions, to the effect that the

U.S.-led Coalition won and Iraq lost, are hardly adequate. Deeper explanations are necessary, and, no doubt, historians will have a heyday with this one for generations to come.

"But even at this early time, and even though I make no claims to being an expert on international affairs, I think it is fitting to reflect on what really happened. When the gains and losses are netted out, I submit, we all lost!"

The editor then goes on to show who are the ones that lost: Saddam Hussein, the people of Iraq, Kuwait, the United Nations, the people of the world, Canada, Israel, the Palestinians, the U.S.-led Coalition, the end-times prophets, and also the Anabaptists. The article concludes:

"Finally, common sense took a real beating. This war was an extremely tangled web of issues. We likely don't even know all the threads which were interwoven to produce the war. Yet the rhetoric was so overly simplistic as to be completely nauseating. Slogans such as 'no blood for oil' certainly contributed to the assault on the intellect. On the other side, some Arabs almost convinced some Westerners that there was a link between

this war and the Palestinian question. And the notion that this was merely a liberation of Kuwait is also too simple.

"War tends to produce only losers. And so we wonder when the world will ever learn that war is no way to settle disputes. Perhaps only when the greed and selfishness which bring about war are eradicated. And that will, of course, only happen when God's love rules the hearts of all people."

Mennonite Reporter, March 4, 1991: "The war is over! I was greeted by the news from my family as I arrived home after a long church council meeting on the evening of February 27.

"The news just added to my weariness. I wanted to feel elated. But I couldn't. It had become all too clear in the past three or four months that even

when the armed conflict in the Persian Gulf ended, peace would still be far off.

"Predictably, the *Globe and Mail* the next morning reported a 'victory' for the U.S. And the editorial tallied up the so-called 'winners' and 'losers' — with 12 in the first category and four in the latter.

"I prefer a more limited and

The Reporter then goes on to list some of the losers: Arab leaders, Arab people, the United Nations, and also the Mennonite peace position. Here are the last two paragraphs of the article:

"It's been sobering to own up to the strong tug to simplify and personalize this war... with Saddam Hussein as the bad guy and George Bush and Norman Schwarzkopf as the good guys. It's been even more sobering to

see how one form of an otherwise honourable two-kingdom theology has been used to bless the 'good guys' and curse the 'bad.'

"In this form, the peace position has emerged a loser.

restrained interpretation of what has happened. At best, there has been a ceasefire. A technologically superior military coalition has trounced the much-heralded military strength of Iraq.

"The only clear winner is the arms industry. Beyond that, there are only highly qualified wins alongside many losses."

War Cry, April 6, 1991: "The war in the Gulf has, at the time of writing, thrust many people into eternity. Lives that should have been lived to the glory of God and for the benefit of humanity have been snuffed out. Bombs, bullets, missiles and other instruments of destruction have all taken their toll as people have killed each other with methodical precision.

"There were calls for peace before the war started, as well as continued efforts by peace activists to get across their message that violence is no way to solve problems. On the other side there has been the belief that outlaw behaviour must not be allowed to go unchecked, that in a civilized world the rule of law must prevail. There is right on both sides. Surely the minimums we can hope for in such a divided world is mutual tolerance and respect, as well as a willingness to recognize that national and personal self-interests are not to be the determining factor in relationships."

"Certainly history will look upon the Gulf War — and any war for that matter — as an exercise in failure. There are no victors in such conflicts, only victims. The only worthwhile battle is the fight against sin and evil in the heart of the individual, and the outcome of that war sets a person's course for eternity."

Reformed Perspective in an article called "Editor's comments about war in the Gulf" of March 1991: "However, the war's immediate aim is to liberate Kuwait. A member of the United Nations, Kuwait was invaded and annexed by another member. This act could not be tolerated. If the United Nations had not taken action, other aggressors would be encouraged to do the same. Aggression should not pay."

"It is therefore important that the U.N. and the U.S.A. are successful in the war against Iraq, and that they do not lose credibility. The U.S.A. especially should prove its ability to protect international interests, maintain peace and contain aggressors. If it fails, international order will be in jeopardy, and a country like Japan may well start to remilitarize."

(Note: This issue of *Reformed Perspective* contained the following note: "The articles about the Gulf War were written several weeks prior to the cease-fire announcement. They do not, therefore, reflect the current status in the Middle East, but still have analytical value.")

Jacob Kuntz is minister of the First Christian Reformed Church of Kitchener, Ont.

Missions to Tibet exposed in Hong Kong

Ron MacMillan

HONG KONG (NNI) — Evangelical ministries to Tibet operating out of Hong Kong were attacked from an unexpected quarter in January, when an article published in the English language newspaper *The South China Morning Post* accused them of "Bible bashing, viewing Tibetans as barbarians," and using underhanded methods in attempting to evangelize Tibetans.

Entitled "Holy War on the Roof of the World," the feature article by *Post* reporter Danny Gittings, published January 13, 1991, resulted in a storm of protest from many evangelical missions. Gittings confirmed to NNI that he had fielded "numerous com-

plaints" from Christians since publication, but had written article out of no other motivation than that it seemed "a bizarre story."

Of particular concern to the Christian community was the publication of a photograph of one of the leaders of a particular Tibetan outreach ministry, who was due to lead an "intercession trip" to Tibet in April. One spokesperson for the ministry reacted: "That's her trip scuppered for sure...she will never get a visa again...that's more than reportage, it's virtually hampering our work."

Who's deceiving whom?

The ministry also claims that Gittings obtained his information by posing as a Christian — a charge that seems ironic since he was known to have lambasted certain missions in his article for using deception to get into Tibet.

However, other Christians felt the article did highlight real areas of concern. One concerned the inflammatory language in the promotional material of some charismatic missions, inviting Christians to take an intercession trip to Tibet. One states: "Through intercession, the roots of evil can be identified and dealt with. Satan's forces can be thrown down and destroyed...let's possess the land for Jesus."

Leaders of the major evangelical missions that conduct outreach to China have also warned their staff to be less trusting of general information seekers in Hong Kong. Said one, "It just serves to emphasize how easy it is for a total outsider to gain vital information as to our ministries...our screening procedures must be tighter...people must realize Hong Kong is a 'front line' area."



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CALVINIST CONTACT

VACATION ISSUE 1991

Calvinists are better at working than at resting

Paul Marshall, senior member in political science at the Institute for Christian Studies, gave a talk on work and rest at the recent annual convention of the Reformed Christian Business and Professional Organization in Burlington, Ont. Since this is the Vacation Issue of C.C., we thought it well to give our readers a digest of what Dr. Marshall had to say to a group of Calvinist business and professional people who are better at working than at resting. (Editor)

God is obviously interested in human work. Genesis 1:26-28 tells us how at their creation Adam and Eve were immediately given a task. We are made to care for the world and the earth is made to be cared for.

During medieval times this high view of work was lost sight of when monks began to elevate the contemplative life over physical work. Terms like "vocation" and "profession"

were reserved for the monastic order.

The Reformation brought along a change of attitude. William Tyndale said that between preaching and washing dishes, as far as pleasing God is concerned, there is no difference.

Calvinists, on the other hand, have elevated work to the point of making their achievements the core of their lives. We preach that we are

accepted by grace, but we practice as if our work helps save us.

We must rediscover that all things — work, worship, intimacy, play, rest — are callings from the Lord. We have a calling to rest. There is even a commandment that tells us to rest on the seventh day. In fact, the Israelites were called to declare every seventh day, every seventh year and every seventh of seven years a time of rest.

The theme of rest is intimately entwined with trust in God. You trusted God enough not to work on the sabbath, not to plow the fields on the seventh year, not to plow them for two years during the 49th and 50th year of Jubilee!

In the book of Hebrews salvation is pictured as rest.

Rest and receive

When we rest we do not seek to earn; the focus is on receiving. Someone asked, "Am I permitted to work in the garden on Sundays?" I asked that person, "What do you do for a living?" His answer: "I'm a market gardener." My answer: "Then you should not garden on Sundays." But another person might be able to rest by gardening on Sundays.

In our society we manufacture distractions which will help us forget about work. Leisure is sometimes the most hectic time of our lives. Holidays are novel forms of consumption. In a society that believes that there is no other value than the market, Sunday openings are an expression of idolatry.

Over against that the Bible places rest as a calling. One cannot struggle unless out of a spirit of rest. Professional



excellence is seen as an important goal by Christians. It can be, but it does not always need to be.

How do we work and rest in relationship to Jesus Christ? We have already been accepted. We don't need to work or rest with guilty consciences. This is how Christ presents work and rest: "Come to me all you who labour and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you."

'C' is for Christian; 'C' is for Camping

Jack Windeler

Organized camping in Canada has many unique elements: a consistent, safe and nurturing environment, impact of the group, expressive values, positive role-modelling, a holistic life-style and adventure. Jessica Breski, president of the Ontario chapter of Christian Camping International (C.C.I.) put it this way, "Obviously Christian camping's emphasis is with Christ at the centre. That's not necessarily absent in other camping, but it isn't necessarily there, either. Christian camping assures that it is; that they're going to be challenged to develop their life-styles around the truths that are in His word."

Most secular and non-Christian camps include in

their mandate some form of spiritual enrichment. To the humanist this means what humankind is able to accomplish or attain through its own will, understanding and potential and the seeking of higher qualities in the fulfilment of human life, the human spirit — not God. Christian camps recognize that we live in a fallen, broken world in which all our relationships are flawed and all need healing.

Healing

In Luke 4:18 Jesus says, "I have come to heal the broken-hearted. I have come to set at liberty those that are bruised." We live a world that gets more bumped and bruised and becomes more bumping and bruising each day. One of Christian camping's

distinctions is in nurturing an environment which can facilitate those new or healed relationships with God and with each other. "But that's not all they're going to do," Breski is quick to add. "Most C.C.I. camps have a holistic approach to camping which include goals to develop the individual physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Parents often comment about how good it is for their children to have caring and accessible role models for their children to imitate rather than the "heroes" of this world. Bruce Dunning, a past president of C.C.I., has been director at Camp Medeba for over 10 years. Since a baby he's been to camp every summer of

Continued on page 10...

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July 21-26	Grades 7, 8 & 9
July 28-August 2	Grades 4, 5 & 6
August 4-9	Grades 7, 8 & 9
August 11-16	Grades 4, 5 & 6
August 18-23	Grades 10, 11 & 12

SPECIALIZED CAMPS

July 7-12	Wilderness
July 14-16	Munchkins
July 17-19	Munchkins
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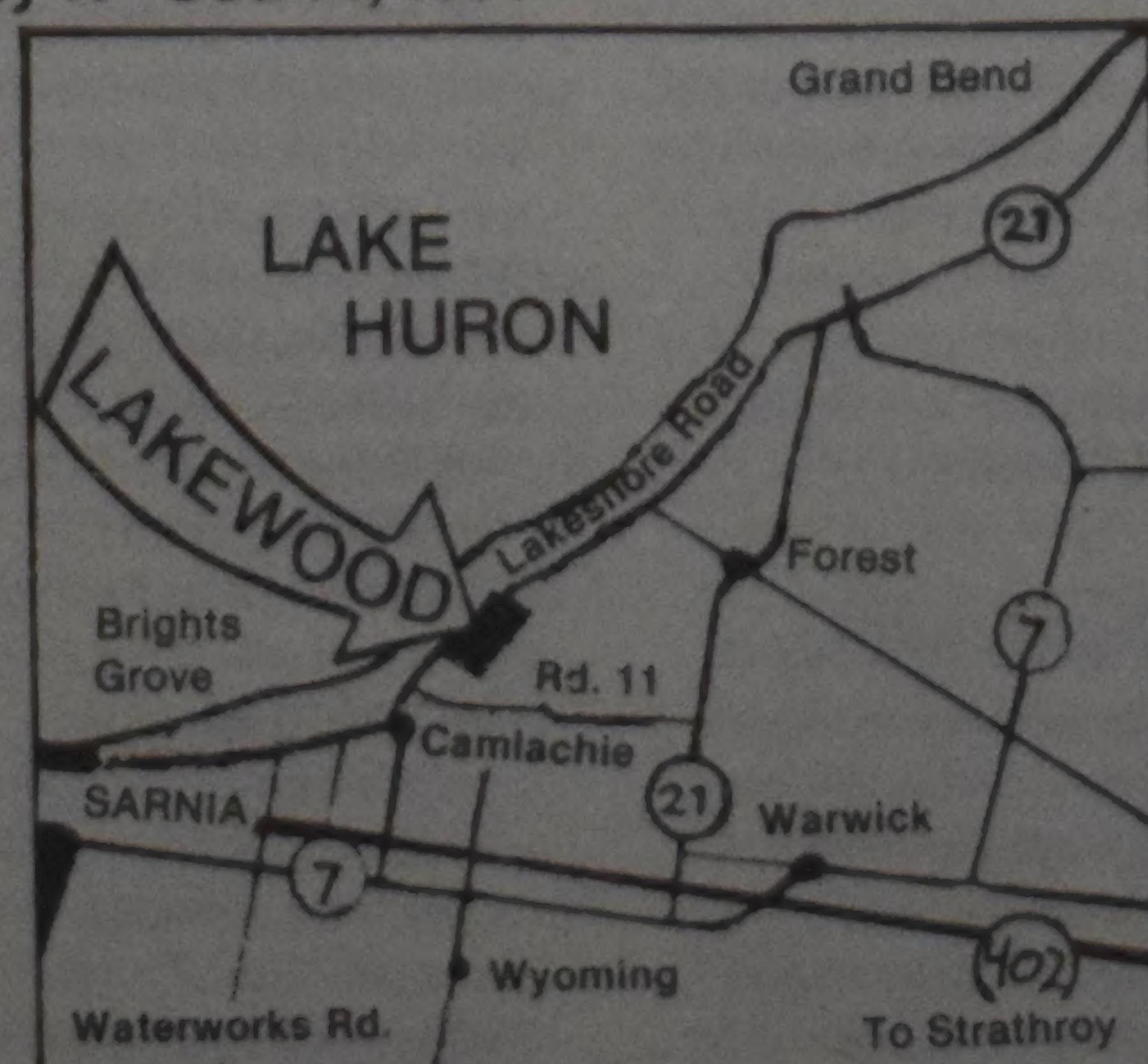
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VACATION ISSUE

Cape Cod: a family vacation destination

Alison de Groot

Cape Cod, Massachusetts, is a "state of mind."

More than comparable to the most popular summer vacation spots in the United States, "The Cape" boasts its own unique vacationland ambience and historical flavour. Relaxed and homey, Cape Cod definitely fits the "fun-for-the-entire-family" mould while being reasonable on the pocketbook.

Just a two-hour drive from Boston, this peninsula resembles a flexed arm jutting out off the eastern seaboard. From Plymouth Rock (where the first Pilgrims landed) to shopping and whale watching in quaint Provincetown, Cape Cod's charm also includes Nantucket Island and Martha's Vineyard. Fine restaurants (several specializing in seafood), and clean, comfortable accommodations abound.

Historic Boston

Those flying or driving to Boston, Toronto's sister city, are well advised to spend a day visiting its many attractions before moving on. Residents of southern Ontario can travel the scenic route, crossing the border at Gananoque (37 kilometers east of Kingston), proceeding south on Interstate 81, then following I-90 east (New York State Thruway); the Thruway connects with the Massachusetts Turnpike. Just before Boston, take I-495 south to 3 south, to 6 south, to Hyannis, the central city. Members of the Canadian Automobile Association should pick up a handy "triptik," as well as area guides to plan their trip. There are

several Cape Cod motels which offer CAA discounts.

Hotels and motel rates during the peak summer season average between \$40 and \$90 per night (U.S.).

Bed and breakfast accommodations are attractive but expensive, ranging from \$55 to \$95 per night per couple and children are often not encouraged. Housekeeping cottages are also available from \$245 to \$650 per week; however, these are booked up to a year in advance.

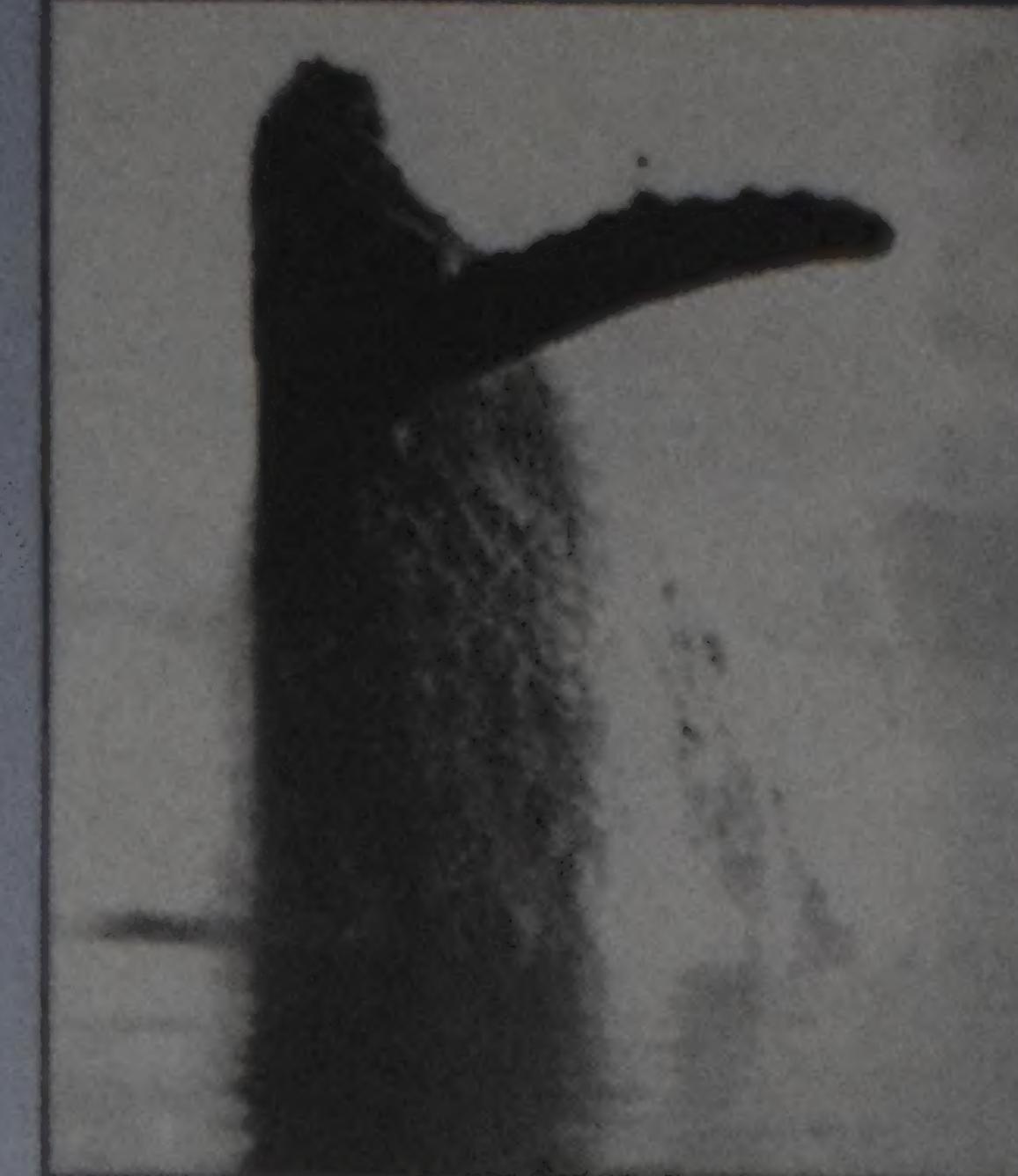
Reservations are highly recommended during the summer (peak) season.

Miles of sand

When they say that they hope some of their "Cape Cod sand will stay in your shoes," the locals are alluding to their beautiful beaches and magnificent dunes just off the Cape Cod National Seashore. Race Point Beach at the tip of the Cape is picture postcard material.

You are never more than minutes from the ocean where you can of course swim, take a boat tour, deep sea fish, and whale watch. Several sightseeing cruises averaging \$8 for adults are available to the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, the latter of which is the home of the Kennedy Compound.

For as little as \$15 a trip (including equipment and bait) you can reel in a bluefish on numerous fishing charters. Watching a giant humpback whale surface lazily beside your boat is well worth the \$20 per person fare for whale-watching cruises. Guaranteed whale sightings and surprise visits from dolphins and killer



Photos: Courtesy Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

Humpback whales can be spotted during exhilarating narrated whale-watching tours.



Historic Race Point Beach at the tip of the Cape.



whales, complete with interesting commentary by expert naturalists, are a breathtaking experience. Discount coupons are easy to come by and reservations are advised but can be made when you arrive on the Cape.

More marine animals and wildlife can be found at the Cape Cod Aquarium and Bassett Wild Animal Farm, both on Rte. 6A in Brewster; and at the Aqua Circus of Cape Cod on Rte. 28 in West Yarmouth.

Step back in time by visiting Cape Cod's numerous museums and historic landmarks, including Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown.

There are no shortages of elaborate miniature golf courses and specialty gift shops. The Cape Cod Mall in

Hyannis has over 90 merchants. During the summer months the theatre season is in full swing at the Cape Playhouse on Rte. 6A in Dennis, and concerts are featured in the Cape Cod Melody Tent near Hyannis.

Do's and don'ts

Couples should not miss candlelight dining at Mitchells Steak and Rib House featuring 2 1/2 lb. lobsters, award-winning clam chowder and Irish entertainment in their Shamrock Lounge. Mitchells is located on Rte. 28, across from the Hyannis airport.

Best buys on the Cape include great artistic T-shirts in Hyannis and especially Provincetown. Hand-made kites provide both a souvenir and an afternoon's entertain-

ment on the beach. Other things you won't want to miss: getting a pair of dockside shoes, salt water taffy, cranberries and world famous Cape Cod potato chips.

The Cape Cod Railroad, a heavily advertised 1 1/4-hour tour of the Cape aboard a "vintage train" is one excursion to avoid. About 75 per cent of the scenery of this supposed "scenic tour" is dense bush on either side of the tracks. The train, which is stuffy and uncomfortable, travels along the same route to and from its destination with long delays at intersections.

Average high temperatures for June, July and August range from 19 to 23 degrees Celsius; yet, humidity is usually low and nights are cool for ideal

A camp where someone listens

...continued from page 9.
his life.

"We had a sponsored girl come to us last summer. She has a horrible and painful background, even witnessing the murder of her own father. She was a mixed up kid. You could see it written all over her. She was really 'hard' when she arrived — the way she dressed, her face, her expressions, her actions. She was searching, though. We had an opening so we extended her an invitation to come back another week. You should see the difference now in this girl's life. Everything's changed — her dress, the outward expression of herself, her whole countenance. It's very dramatic!"

Positive environment
Garry Robinson is a 20-year camping veteran and director for 15 years of Graphite Bible

Camp in Maynooth. "The thing I feel today that is very important, and I think it was Dr. James C. Dobson (founder of the "Focus On The Family" world-wide ministries and broadcasts) who brought out this fact, that it's the *positive* peer pressure at camp rather than the negative that they get in the world today; the positive image in the lives of the counsellors." Children not only come to camp with a duffle and sleeping bag but from broken homes, with hurts, problems, pressures, uncertainties about themselves and the world around them — that heavy-laden 'emotional baggage' they carry with them everywhere.

"You get them into that positive environment at camp — where there's someone to listen to them, someone they could talk to, someone that

will try to understand them — and that's why kids don't want to leave camp! They'd love that to be their lifestyle year-round.

"Where camps can see that a child has been a problem, bucking the whole system of authority, there can be a tremendous attitude change. That's really what it's all about."

Keeping contact

But Christian camping has its own set of challenges too, Garry admits. The camper is only at camp for a small fraction of the entire year. During the summer Graphite has a children's club during the week with support from within the local community and church. But it's the nurturing and care of the child after they get back home that's so important as well. "It's difficult for us because you just

can't be in all these different cities. Keeping contact is important." Assisting campers in developing meaningful contacts within their own community, whether it be through a local church, community club or other nurturing group, is one way Graphite attempts to sustain the impact of the camp experience after the summer is over.

Gift of love

Christian camping is really people rather than facilities — the selfless, priceless gift of thousands of committed individuals who volunteer or work at camps each year. "Don't do it as a good work," Don Millar advises. "I think it's the spirituality of the counsellor that will really shine in the lives of these kids. They should be the lights of the camp 'cause they're led there to

please God rather than themselves."

"In a Christian camp there's an acceptance of the child based not upon what they can do but that God loves them and therefore we love them, too. We can love the unloved. You don't have to be the best swimmer, canoeist and so on; you're there and we love you for who you are. It allows the children to act more or less independently where there's a lot of nurturing going on."

Campers may only be at camp for a short time but what a difference it could make for such a very long time. Now that's what Christian camping is all about!

VACATION ISSUE

Newfoundland: 'Of the sea, for the sea, by the sea'



Photos: Courtesy Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Development

A typical and idyllic scene in one of Newfoundland's thousands of coastal inlets.

Marian Van Til

If you look forward to your summer holidays with great anticipation because they are a time of rejuvenation which allows you to drop out of a normally hectic routine to glory in some wondrous part of God's creation, there are countless places you could go.

But if you want to be guaranteed quietude, no crowds, awe-inspiring scenery, encounters with magnificent wild animals; or conversations with local people who are thoroughly hospitable but unpretentious, salt-of-the-earth types; or cultural events rooted in centuries-old folk traditions, Newfoundland is the place for you.

In all my travels — to Western Europe, along both coasts of the U.S. and Canada and to hundreds of points in between — my recollections of a (far too) brief visit to Newfoundland stand out. It's a huge, wonderfully isolated, unspoiled place which offers a wide variety of sights and experiences to the vacationer looking to "get away."

The following is just the sketchiest of glimpses, designed to whet your appetite. Unfortunately, Labrador, the other half of the province, will have to wait for some future article.

How do you get to The Rock?

People have been arriving at "The Rock," we now know, since 2340 B.C.; remains at Port au Choix (upper west coast) testify to the existence of Maritime Archaic Indians from that time. Archeological discoveries have also revealed coastal Viking settlements from about A.D. 1000. (If history and archaeology intrigue you, and you revel in seclusion, you can visit the restored site of the Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, an isolated stretch of shoreline at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula.)

The English, French, Basques, Spaniards, Portuguese and Dutch all seemed to have had

no trouble finding Newfoundland from the 15th century on. It was the English/Scots and French who permanently settled the

"It's the kind of moment that becomes seared like a permanent photograph into your memory."

coastlines (and were raided by the Dutch in the late 17th century). Interestingly, it was the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) which forced the French to withdraw (though they still had fishing rights), allowing the English to gain a firmer foothold. A royal governor didn't live on the island full-time, however, until as late as 1817. And it took still another 132 years for Newfoundland and Labrador to become Canada's 10th province on March 31, 1949.

Modern mainlanders reach the island with considerably less effort than that expended by its first inhabitants. It is only several air-hours away from most of Canada's major cities, and air connections to St. John's are good.

If you're driving your own car, though, and come via

Nova Scotia (a beautiful trip in itself), the six-hour ferry trip from North Sydney, N.S., to The Rock's southwest coast (docking at Port aux Basques), or to its southeast side (Placentia Bay, docking at Argentia), is a fascinating experience.

Marine Atlantic operates the ferries and has toll-free reservation numbers. You can take an all-night or daytime ferry. I recommend the all-nighter, both because it saves a day of travel time which can be put to other good uses and because there's something about that night on the water which is unique — different from the same trip in daylight.

The large ferry chugs east into the approaching sunrise and reaches the quaint fishing village of Port aux Basques just as the sun is sneaking up over the water and ricocheting off the brightly painted clapboard houses on the harbour. Meanwhile, gulls and other seabirds screech and dive for their early breakfast, and fishermen, heading out to sea, wave up at you in greeting from their dories. It's the kind of moment that becomes seared like a permanent photograph into your memory.

Spectacular beauty

There are a variety of auto tours which can be taken in each region of the vast province. (The provincial interior is uninhabited and virtually inaccessible, at least by car — and I, for one, am glad about that.) Newfoundland's Travel and Tourism Ministry publishes an excellent annual *Travel Guide* which divides the province into geographical regions, presents five to seven auto tours per region, lists cultural events, attractions, activities and accommodations in each — along with prices, numbers to call, or addresses to which to write for more information.

My own brief experience with the province consisted of traveling up the west coast from Port aux Basques. As you head north, the coastal Anguille Mountains are on your left between you and the sea (which is often visible despite the mountains) and the Long Range Mountains snuggle in on your right. About a third of the way up the coast the Port au Port Peninsula juts into St. George's Bay on its south side and the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the north. Fishing villages dot the peninsula; 90 per cent of the province's people live in coastal fishing settlements.

Eighty kilometres north of the peninsula is Corner Brook, a fishing and logging centre and

a metropolis by Newfoundland's standards. Though it has barely 25,000 people it is the province's second largest city! (St. John's, the capital and Canada's easternmost city, is the largest, with a population of 84,000.)

Corner Brook is at the mouth of the Humber River, first charted by Captain Cook and still one of the world's greatest salmon rivers. Each year on Orangeman's Day weekend in July (July 12 or the closest Monday to it), Corner Brook hosts the Hangashore Folk Festival. The festival showcases traveling performers from throughout the province and is a treat for anyone who appreciates good



The lighthouse of Cape Bonavista is a Provincial Historic Site and "a monument to the hardy life of Newfoundlanders 100 years ago."

"The large ferry chugs east into the approaching sunrise and reaches the quaint fishing village of Port aux Basques just as the sun is sneaking up over the water and ricocheting off the brightly painted clapboard houses on the harbour."

in nearby waters, black bears, woodland caribou, fox and lynx.

For campers, Newfoundland's two national parks are accompanied by 76 provincial parks. For less adventurous types, more "comfortable" lodging is available, of course, in the larger cities and towns. But to get a better feel for the province and its people, bed and breakfast homes are ideal.

For an excellent overview of what Newfoundland and Labrador has to offer write for the 1991 *Travel Guide* to: Development of Tourism, Tourism Branch, P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NF A1B 4J6; or call toll-free: 1-800-563-6353.



"Grandad's 'fiddling' is passed on to a new generation."

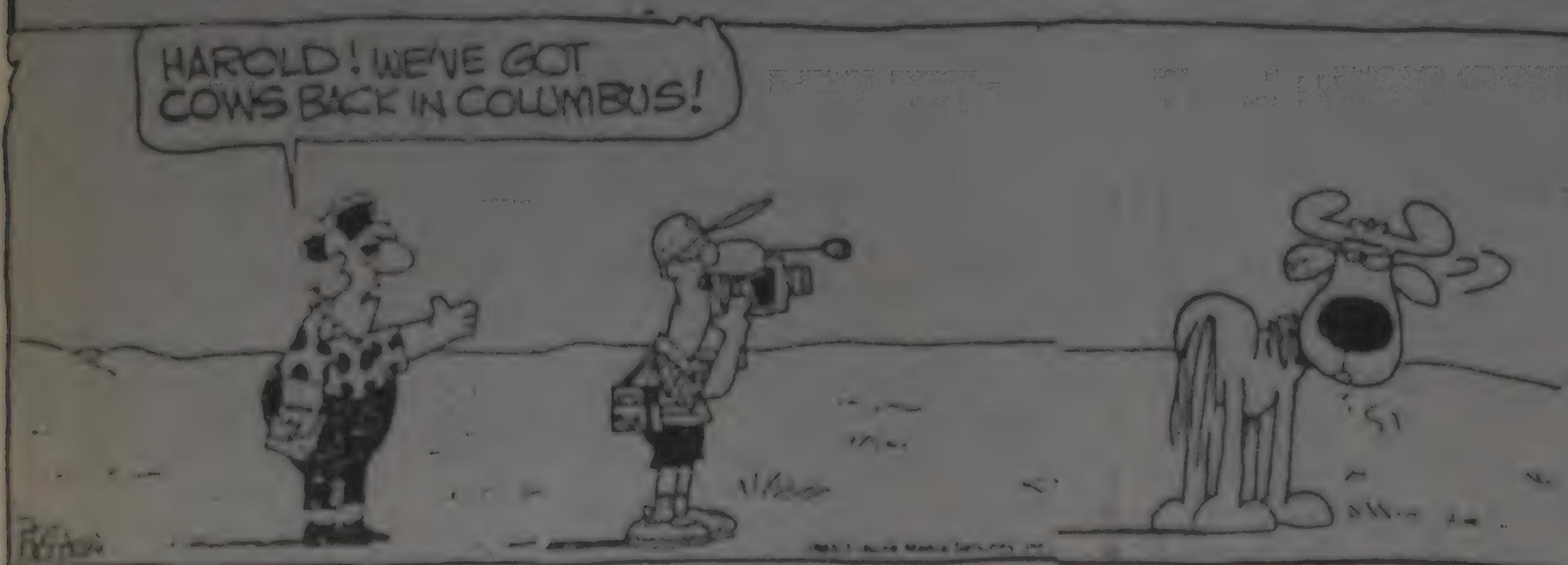
VACATION/POETRY

The Heart of the Land

From the Pacific Rim to St. Anthony
There are thousands and thousands of trees.
The roads wind often as the river bends
Where boulders loom in grey.
And red and brown and sparkling ebony
Beside Superior Lake.
The headwind blows the clouds away
To catch a view of Georgian Bay.
Rich is the loam beneath farms growing green.
And red is the road that leads
to cheerful Charlottetown
Where Canada was conceived.
For fisherfolk on rocky isle
Potato patches bloom and thrive
Beside the main highway.
For nowhere is there rooting soil
In coves washed clean by ocean spray.
Laughing, splashing, joyful waves
Thrill lonely students of Labrador —
Rolling surges from ocean depths

Bring them back to the homeward shore.
The pungent whiff of smoke cured fish
Around a campfire in the wild
Lures the hiker, hungry and tired.
Along the St. Lawrence, broad and strong
Tower silos and church steeples point to the sky
And the Creator.
Desperate with haste before the gathering storm,
Great combines swallow golden swaths
And spout out mountains of grain
Into waiting trucks on the prairie plain.
Over the horizon the copper sun glides
Like a ball of fire,
As the silver moon
Looks coolly down.
In each wanderer there is a yearning
To savour the old amid the new
And discover the peace
That still flows through
This God-given land.

Hilda J. Born
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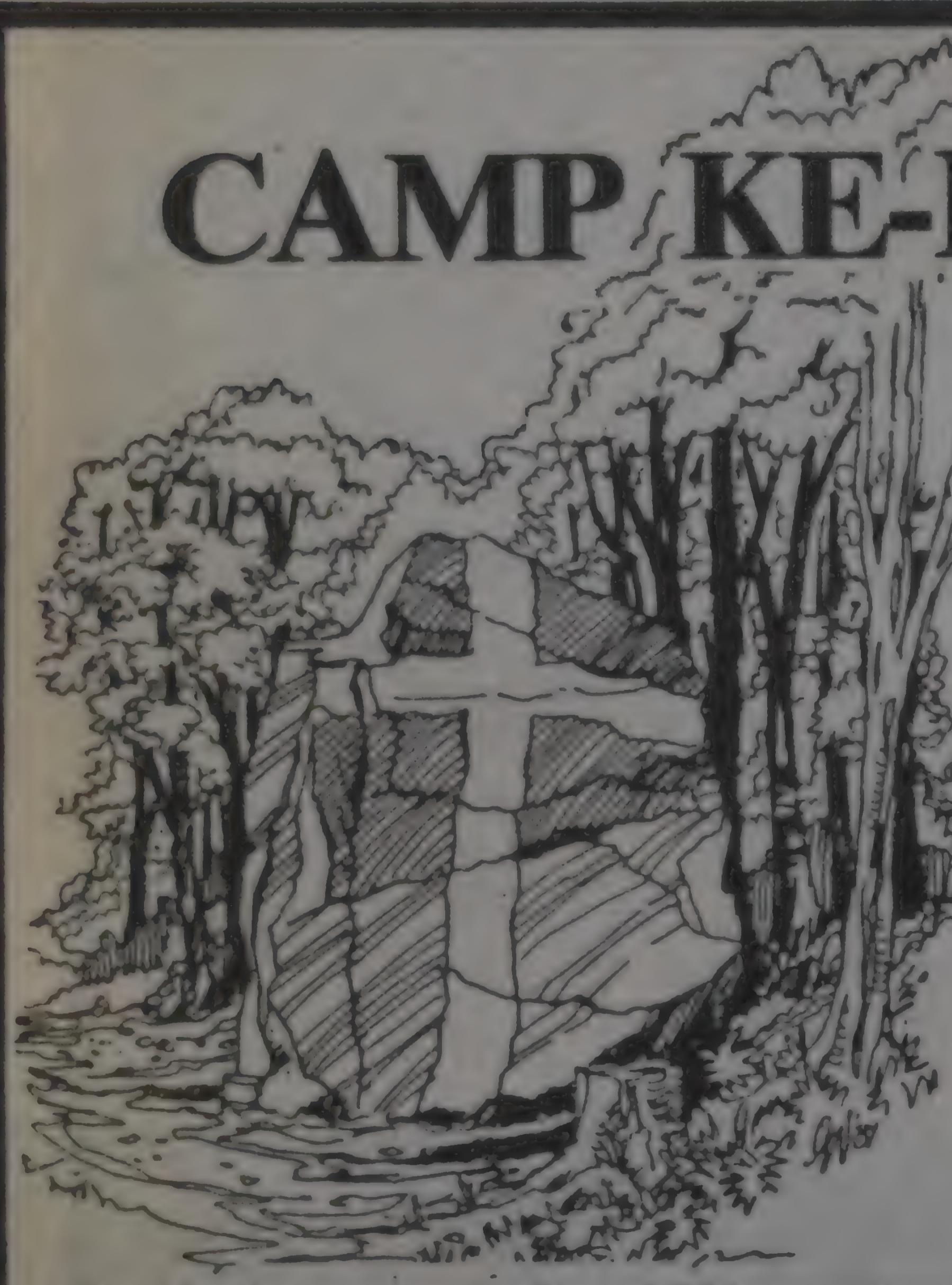
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Look for our Calendar of Events on page 19.

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Check any of these areas of interest too: [] Leadership Training Program (Ages 15 - 17 years.)
[] Retreat Facilities. [] Summer Volunteer Program (18 yrs. +). [] Sponsoring A Child At Camp.



"Marvellous to think, Emma, that just by coming here for a low-priced vacation, we are strengthening a native economy."

from "Study Encounter" - WCC 1972

Summer Vacation

My feet were buried in the cool sand.
Waves splashed against my legs.
The sun, gentle and red, rose
slowly from the ocean.
White caps crashed against the shore.
The voice of the ocean was all I heard;
The blueness was splattered with a million
jewels.
I had a moment of peace before the beach
was covered with vacationers.

Melinda Pains
Hamilton, Ont.

Travelling

Our rural green
was showing.
We were used to having
our hands on the wheel
navigating with a map
stopping for gas
instead of fumbling
in foreign languages
at ticket wickets
for the right
of passage
through crowded subways
and train stations
where twenty trains
could take you
where you didn't want
to go that day
or maybe
ever

fast
past dingy rail yards
high
near the rooftops
and chimney pots
of a hundred home fires
to countrysides
greening
and dappled with sheep
daffodils and blossoming
fruit trees.

We asked for angels
and they ran beside us
opening doors
opening our eyes
to guide posts

sharpening our survival
skills
through exits
and entries
in strange languages

unravelling the snags
and keeping us
on course.

Linda Siebenga
Blackfalds, Alta.

Media/Sports

Canadian-Soviet Arctic odyssey to be seen on TV

(Canadian Scene) — An extraordinary adventure began in the spring of 1988 when four Canadian and nine Soviet adventurers set out to be the first people in recorded history to ski across the Arctic Ocean. The story of this historic journey is graphically told in *Polar Bridge*, a 50-minute documentary to be screened in Canada over TV's Family Channel on May 25 next.

The journey, the objective of which was "to link East and West over the North Pole," took a gruelling 91 days. It began in northern Siberia and ended at Canada's Ellesmere Island.

The skiers endured temperatures that fell as low as -50 Celsius and winds that reached 80 kph. The four Canadians were Richard Weber, an engineer with

previous Arctic experience; Laurie Dexter, an Anglican minister; Christopher Halloway, a computer programmer; and Max Burton, a physician. Their nine Soviet companions were from a wide variety of backgrounds and all had undertaken previous Arctic expeditions.

The skiers had to negotiate constantly shifting ice which

formed into jagged ridges. They started during the coldest part of the year and reached Ellesmere across an already treacherously thawing ice cap.

Polar Bridge was produced by Keg Productions of Toronto in association with CFCN-TV, Calgary, Global Television Network and the Family Channel.

Producer Ralph Ellis, whose

nature films have won many cinema awards, says that, apart from the courage of the 13 explorers, the film's greatest debt is to cameraperson/director Volodi Ledenov, whose cinematography is

"simply amazing." Ellis says, "Without boasting, I'll be surprised if this one doesn't win an award or two."

The **most** news on the Netherlands and the Dutch in Canada and the USA *the Windmill*

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**"Play ball," and
"He shoots...he
scores!"**

REFLEXION



REFLEXION

John Byl

"Play ball!" The familiar spring call of the baseball umpire covers the land with the opening of another baseball season. It brings back memories of last summer, sitting on cold bleachers, rising to watch an exciting play, getting some popcorn and singing Norworth's 1908 "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

It may be hard right now to watch a game on the tube since hardly a night goes by without a hockey play-off game, or what some people call, after 840 games, a game in the "real NHL season." Though we might well be suntanning before the playoffs are over, this "real season" is particularly enjoyable for most hockey fans. Especially for those unfortunate here in Ontario who had to watch the Maple Leafs for the regular season, we can finally get a taste of what great hockey is all about. There is something special about watching the best play, and watching these athletes play with intensity. The play-offs do bring out excellence; in part because the weaker teams have been eliminated, and in part because each game counts for more.

There is a lot of beauty in sport. Do you remember Steve Yzerman's hat-trick of the Detroit Red Wings' first play-off game this year? His third goal was shot with absolute precision. A small spot, just a few centimetres larger than a puck, and he hit it. Amazing! I remember watching the ovation Guy Lafleur received when Quebec played its last game in the Montreal Forum. I was impressed by the support he received, and as he retires we might still recall Guy rushing down the ice, hair flowing behind him, scoring another pretty goal, adding to his 560 others.

But I will also remember how, after the singing of the Canadian anthem, he crosses himself, and remembers his God. Perhaps in the same way as one reporter commented on the former Blue Jay shortstop Tony Fernandez: "Gone to play and pray for the Padres." Do you remember watching Graf and Seles shoot it

out on the tennis courts? Do you remember figure skaters Browning, Brasseur and Eisler, and the Duchesnays, innovatively carving their way around the ice in motion that can only be seen and felt? It can hardly be described with words.

The sports world is not all beautiful, of course. Eric Lindros, the eighteen-year-old number one NHL draft pick, carefully nurtured to develop his skills and yet avoid burnout, will likely set a new standard for a rookie's salary; it's expected to be in the seven figures. Is anyone really worth that kind of money?

The national anthem is booed by fans at the opening football game of the Montreal Machine. Is this showing godly respect for authorities? Soccer player Maradona is accused of cocaine use. A result of the money, the pressure...? The media is full of young able-bodied males who are winners. But don't women, people of other ages, or less physically abled people play?

Yet I believe that sport can be part of the abundant life God intended us to live. I believe that sports are part of a response to developing the good gifts of this world, of fulfilling our cultural mandate. Furthermore, 10 to 20 percent of the news in a daily paper consists of sport coverage. If newspapers reflect societal values, then our society places enormous significance on sport.

It is well worth our time to appreciate the beauty in sport, as well as to reflect on how the ugliness in sport might be removed. It is well worth our time to understand how our involvement in sport may bring pleasure, and displeasure, to our Lord.

John Byl is a professor of psychology at Ryerson College, Toronto, Ont.

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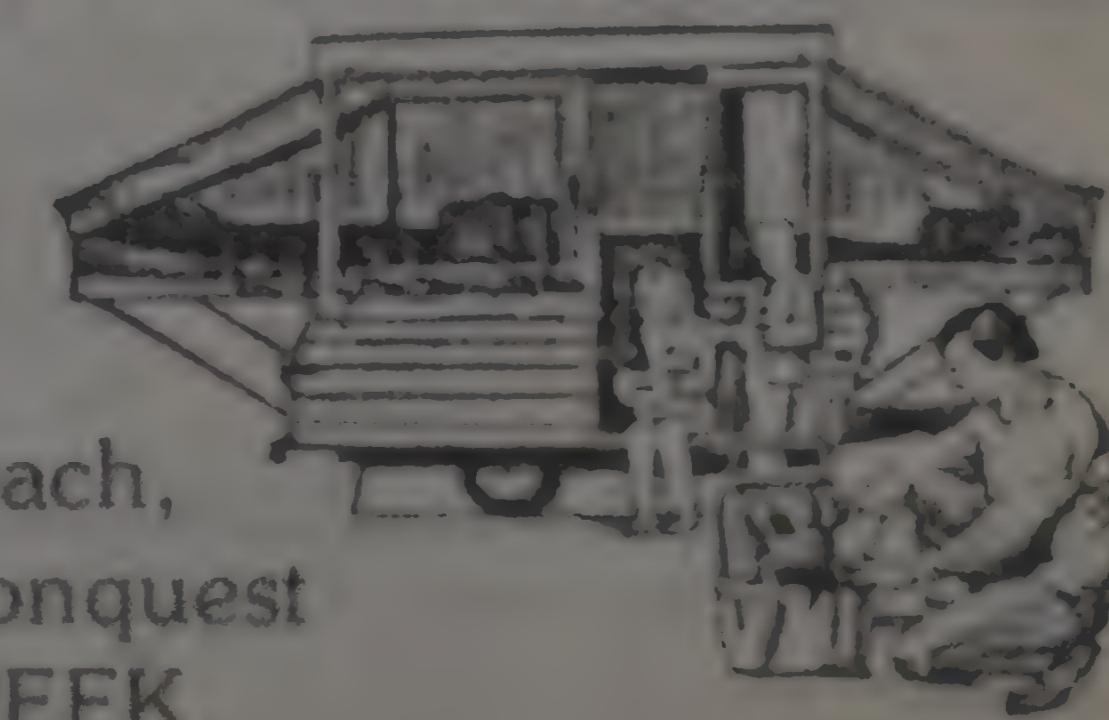
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July 20-July 27	Implementing Renewal/Dr. B. Roxburgh, U.S.A.
July 27-Aug. 3	Leadership In the Church/Dr. Ken Gangel, Dallas
Aug. 3-Aug. 10	Creative Bible Study/Dr. W. McRae, OBC/OTS
Aug. 10-Aug. 17	Cults, Creation & Evolution/Ron Carlson, C.M.I.
Aug. 17-Aug. 24	Hang Loose with Keith Price, E.F.O., Minister-at-Large
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News/Opinion

One-of-a-kind project in Edmonton examining suicide among immigrants

EDMONTON, (MCC) — A one-of-a-kind program about suicide in Canadian immigrant groups is being developed by the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers in Edmonton.

The program will develop suicide prevention techniques tailored to the differing needs of immigrants. According to Director Leszek Walter, techniques that work for most Canadians can be counterproductive for other cultures. He uses the example of the Chinese culture, where talking about suicide is taboo. Western culture teaches suicide intervenors to ask a person directly whether he or she is contemplating suicide; such a question directed to a person of Chinese background would be insensitive and could turn the individual away from getting help.

Over the last year members of the Polish, Chilean and

Chinese communities have been interviewed about attitudes toward suicide. In the second phase the program will develop training programs based on the findings. The first phase was made possible by a grant of \$35,000 from the Alberta government.

But the second phase of the program could be jeopardized by budget cuts, according to Walter. He adds that the findings of the unprecedented program will aid health, social services and other helping professions to aid immigrant groups better.

"We are getting calls from across the country for the results of our interviews," he says. "Nobody has ever done research like this in Canada before."

Studies in the U.S., England and Australia have shown that suicide rates among some immigrant groups are

significantly greater than the norm, especially among refugees who have experienced torture. Walter says that unofficial statistics from

hospitals and health professionals in Edmonton confirm those studies.

The Mennonite Centre for Newcomers is supported by

Mennonite Central Committee Canada, which has two volunteers at the Centre.



Peter and Marja are



Photo: David Van Dijk

Dear P & M

I am a single woman approaching my mid-30s. I lead a full, rich life and want for nothing, except a child with whom I can share my life. I'm battling with the pros and cons of adopting (this, of course, is my only option) and one big issue comes to mind: single parenting. Oh, I realize that there are many who are separated and divorced who rear children on their own but is it responsible to knowingly put a child in that situation? I would, of course, have to continue working to meet the basic necessities of life.

If I do not make a decision within the next five years I will be considered too old to adopt, especially because I am single. I am currently taking university courses part-time to enter a career of teaching which will allow me a schedule more suitable to that of a child's, but this could take a minimum of 10 years to complete.

The clock is ticking and I so want to share my life with a child. How do I sort out this one nagging drawback?

Dear Biological Clock:

One loving parent is preferable to no parents or two warring parents. Neither the Bible nor the law of the land condemns single parenting and we think you are morally free to give Family and Children's Services (FACS) a call.

Our concern is a realistic one. We personally know a number of couples who have waited five years or more just to have their home study done. Family physicians regularly receive requests from couples to place children privately. Frankly, your chances of adopting a baby are next to nil. In fact, the only way that you may get an interview with a child-placement worker is to mention that you are interested in a special-needs or older child.

The kind of child that you might be able to adopt requires extra attention and energy. What kind of support system would you have in place so that you can balance family, career and school?

We wonder about your motivation. Are you looking to adopt a child for companionship, as a substitute for a spouse? If that's the case you may subconsciously expect too much from a child.

By all means call FACS, if only to satisfy your curiosity. In the meantime, seriously consider becoming a Big Sister or a foster parent. The first suggestion would meet a child's need for extra attention and satisfy your desire to share your "full, rich life." The second suggestion is more emotionally demanding, but comes with the agency's counselling and financial support. As you begin your investigation you will soon discover that there is a greater need for Big Sisters and foster parents than for adoptive parents.

A childless adult has even more options. Read on.

Dear P & M:

I can understand what the lonely gentleman in his 50s (March 29, 1991 column) is going through since I also had a problem for many years trying to "find the right girl." I didn't get married until I was 28, which, in retrospect, probably wasn't all that late in life. A clergy friend also reached his late-30s before he married.

However, getting married even in your wife's child-bearing years doesn't guarantee that you will be able to have children, as many childless couples like ourselves can testify. At least you have each other, and perhaps that is more important than having children of your own.

Of course there will always be this void and an occasional panic attack as you realize that it may soon be "too late." Still, many of us have brothers, sisters and friends with children who could use help from a couple or single person occasionally while they get away from their kids for a few hours. It's important not to show bitterness or cynicism around these couples so you can develop a bond with their children as a special uncle or aunt. Why shut yourself off from what is available?

In the meantime I would encourage this gentleman who is "Looking For Love" to move to a city where you can meet more women. He could also join a Christian, older singles group or meet someone via the C.C.'s personal column. That way both persons know that they are both looking for companionship and they can take their time getting to know each other.

Dear Favourite Uncle:

What a great attitude about your childless marriage! Your more inclusive concept of family and special relationships goes a long way towards filling the void that childless couples feel. Indeed, why shut yourself off from what is available?

Thanks for a letter of empathy and advice which brings insight from an unconsidered angle. You have underscored our advice to focus on friendship, not fertility, when looking for a marriage partner.

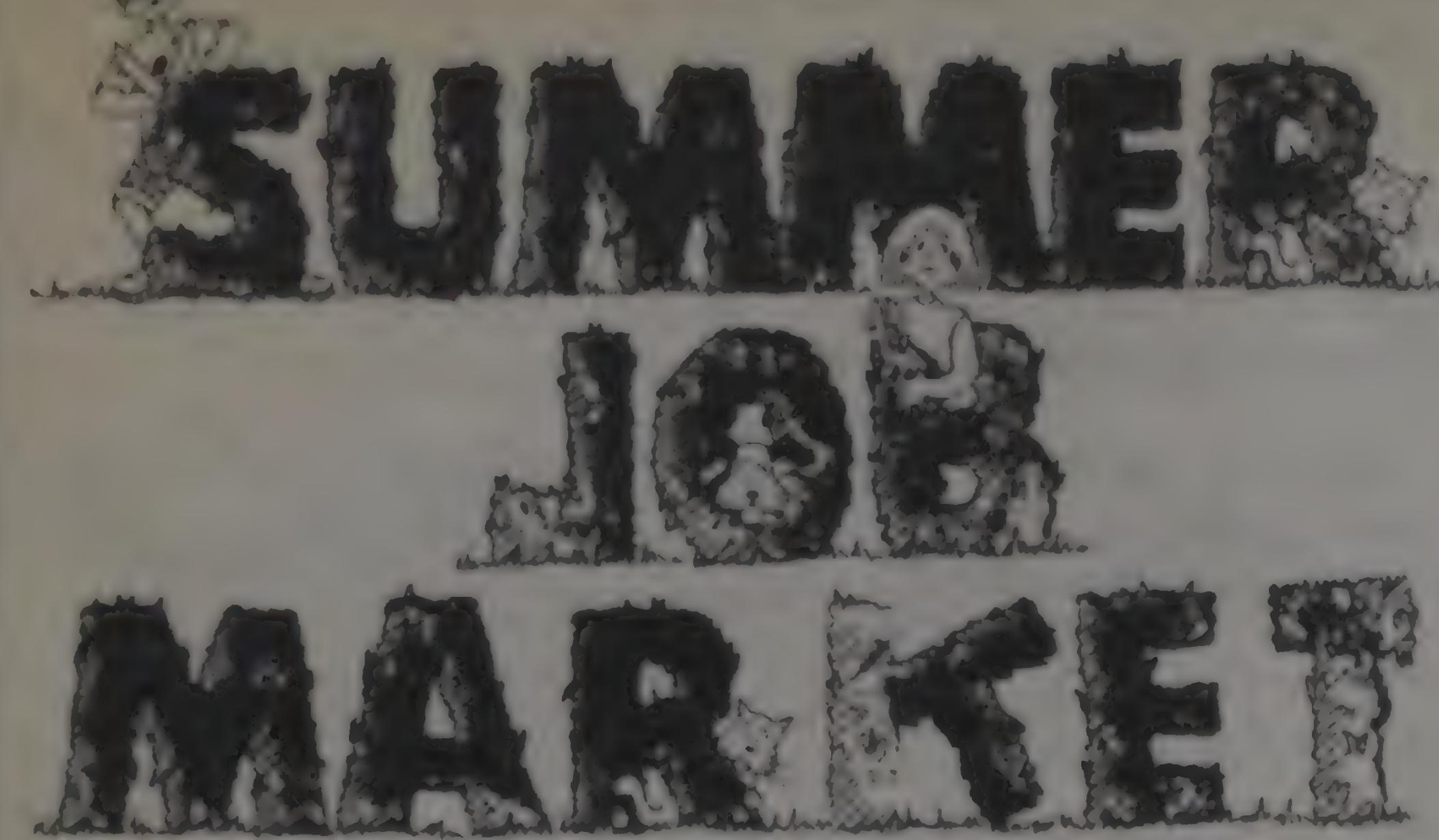
It strikes us that your wife has also "found the right guy."

Write to: P & M
c/o Calvinist Contact
4-261 Martindale Rd.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1

Peter and Marja Slofstra are a pastor and wife team living in St. Catharines, Ont. They are assisted by an advisory panel consisting of: Sam Da Silva, Ineke Brauwer-Parlevliet, Tom Zeyl, Marian Van Til and Bert Witvoet.

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If you wish a photo included, send us the original. d) <i>Calvinist Contact</i> will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements. e) The rate shown above for classifieds covers any length up to six column inches. <i>Calvinist Contact</i> reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of \$13.50 per column inch (GST inclusive).</p> <p>NEWLYWEDS Non-subscribing newlyweds whose wedding announcement with their future address appears in <i>Calvinist Contact</i> will receive a letter offering a first-year subscription for only \$20.00 (GST inclusive)! To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request and pay for the wedding announcement to enclose \$20.00 and the couple's future address.</p> <p>Calvinist Contact Publishing Ltd. 4-261 Martindale Rd. St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1 Phone: (416) 682-8311 Fax: (416) 682-8313</p>	<p>Hieslum (Fr.) Port Dover (Ont.) 1936 May 6 1991 "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it" (Ps. 127:1).</p> <p>WILFRED and THERESA BOOTSMA With thanksgiving and praise, we celebrate the 55th wedding anniversary of our parents on May 6, 1991. From all your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, we pray that your marriage continues to experience the riches of God's grace. Congratulations and best wishes from: Harry & Paula Bootsma Joe & Grace Verdonk Paulina, Adriana, Catherine, Tony, Hinne Wilfred & Irene Bootsma Esther, Ashley Paul & Hetty Bootsma Heather, Emily Theresa, Michael, Joel, Daniel, Lucy Dick & Pat Mostert Marco, Wilfreda & Kevin (engaged), Cornelia, Anita, Diane, Edward, Theresa Jack & Ankje Bootsma Wayne, Leonard, Timothy, Faye, Sarah, Aimee Bill & Gertie Bootsma Barbara, Steven, Wendy, Anita Dick & Shirley Rauwerda Ruth-Ann, Suzanne, Richard, Peter, Brian, Brenda Stuart & Jackie Bootsma Guy, Brad, Jody, Denise, Jesse, Kristin, Bradley, Crystal, Valerie, Pamela, Jeremy Wilfred Bootsma Susan & Ross (engaged), Paul, Jeffrey Jessy Bootsma Rick & Wendy Verkerk David, Ryan, Benjamin An open house will be held at the Chr. Ref. Church, Jarvis, Ont., on May 4, 1991, from 2-4 p.m. Home address: R.R. #1, Port Dover, ON N0A 1N1</p> <p>1956 May 2 1991 "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:19b, 20). With thankfulness to the Lord, we hope to celebrate the 35th anniversary of our parents.</p> <p>JIM and GINY MULDER (nee Koning) We pray that the Lord may grant us many more happy years together. With much love always, Greta & Tom Luimes — Kanata Shannon, Shawn Eric & Brenda Mulder — Kanata Sandra, Greg Marian & Dave Tighe — Kanata Laura, Nathan Home address: 27 Meighen Cres., Brockville, ON K6V 3J8</p> <p>1946 April 22 1991 With joy and thanksgiving to our Lord, we announce the 45th wedding anniversary of our parents:</p> <p>KLAAS and CORNELIA VANDERWOUDE (nee Greidanus) Their children: Joan & Joe Koole — Woodbridge, Ont. Janice, James, Julie Jill & Bill Lise — Mississauga, Ont. Jason, Kristy, Becky Margaret & Dan Milbury — Wyebridge, Ont. Nicholas, Christopher, Meaghan, Kaitlin Martin VanderWoude & Diana — Waubachene, Ont. Renee Smith & Tom — Angus, Ont. Justin Cindy & Bill Compton — Angus, Ont. Alex, Joshua Home address: 5 Golddale Road, Barrie, ON L4N 6R7</p>	<p>Birdaard, Fr. Lethbridge, Alta. 1951 May 2 1991 "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore" (Ps. 125:2). We praise and thank God for his gift of faithfulness in keeping and loving our parents and grandparents in 40 years of marriage. Their lives and loving relationship are a gift to us, their thankful children.</p> <p>PETER and TINA DEGROOT (nee Kingma) May God continue to keep you close to him as you serve him in your life together. Love and congratulations from all of us: Klaaske & Neil deKoning — Sarnia, Ont. Rachel, Karissa, Jonathan, Peter Rudy & Greta deGroot — Calgary, Alta. Joylaine, Janelle, James Dennis & Jenny deGroot — Langley, B.C. Rueben, Joshua, Asher, Gabriel Ann & Martin Dykstra — Red Deer, Alta. Kurtis, Kari-Ann, Kristen Theo & Marie-Ann deGroot — Emo, Ont. Benjamin, Anna-Lise, Theodore, Kory Carol & Arnold Kaemingh — Emo, Ont. Jenna, Kaylene, James Peter & Ruby deGroot — Coaldale, Alta. Robyn, Joshua, Meghan Home address: 1211 - 12th Ave., North Lethbridge, AB T1H 1P9</p> <p>1926 May 6 1991 With praise and thanksgiving to our Lord we hope D.V. to celebrate the 65th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.</p> <p>WILLIAM and MARIE DIELEMAN (nee Dieleman) May the Lord continue to be near to them. With love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Kay & Everett Hooyer — Dresden Jane Dieleman — Chatham Adrian & Attie Dieleman — Thamesville Marie & John Verburg — Chatham Jim & Ann Dieleman — Thamesville Wilma & Jake Van Gorp — Brownsburg 24 grandchildren plus 12 more who came through marriage. There are also 24 great-grandchildren. The Lord is good and his love endures, forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations. Open house will be held D.V. on May 11, 1991, from 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Chr. Ref. Church, 17 Tweedsmuir Ave. East, Chatham. Best wishes only. Home address: 21 McGeorge Ave., Chatham, ON N7M 3Z3</p> <p>1951 1991 JEFF and JEAN MIEDEMA (nee Vanderlaan) The children of Jeff and Jean thank the Lord for the opportunity to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on April 27, 1991. We invite friends and relatives to join us for open house, D.V., on May 4, 1991, from 2 to 4 p.m. at York Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, 33 King Street, York. Best wishes only. With all our love, Andy & Marilyn Miedema Teresa, Shelly, Kenny Martin Miedema & Julie Lannen Janet Miedema Grace & Herb Grönengen Jeff, Jennilyn, Amy, Beth, Kent Bert Miedema Tim Miedema</p>	 <p>Congratulations to John F. and Anje Dreise (nee Van Dyken) who will celebrate, D.V., their 60th wedding anniversary on May 11, 1991.</p> <p>With gratitude and praise to our faithful God we hope, D.V., to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents:</p> <p>JOHN F. and ANJE DREISE (nee Van Dyken) Psalm 121. Open house at South Chatham Village, 40 Elm St. Chatham, Ont. May 11, 1991, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Congratulations from: Simon & Dina Dreise — Chatham, Ont. Grace & Marten Van Rooyen — Forest, Ont. Maria & Dick De Jong — Hastings, Ont. Albert & Alida Dreise — Dundas, Ont. 27 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. Home address: 40 Elm Street, Apt. 104, Chatham, ON N7M 6A5</p> <p>Oostwald, W.K. (Gr.) Watford, (Ont.) 1941 May 5 1991 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart...." (Prov. 3:5-6). With joy and thanks to our God, we would like to announce the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents.</p> <p>JOHN and IDA HOEKSEMA (nee Bos) Congratulations and love from your children and grandchildren: Maaike & Henry Froelich — London, Ont. Karen, Norma Rennie & Web Boersma — Wyoming, Ont. Marjorie, Michelle, Trevor, Tanya Hank & Betty Hoeksema — Watford, Ont. Michael, Susan, Brian Jenny & Ron Wagenaar — Grimsby, Ont. James, David, Daniel, Monica Rose & Steve Back — London, Ont. Robert, Kevin, Ryan Ella & Charles Lueck — Atlanta, Ga. Joanne & Ron Moore — Wyoming, Ont. Philip, Alex, Clinton Ian Hoeksema — Caledonia, Ont. Open house will be held Friday, May 3, 1991, beginning 8:00 P.M. at Watford Centennial Hall. Best wishes only please. Home address: R.R. 5, Watford, ON N0M 2S0</p>	<p>1951 April 26 1991 BILL and MARIE HOEKSTRA We, the children of announce 40 years of marriage. God bless you, Mom and Dad. Garry & Cindy Hoekstra — Kemptville, Ont. Rosemary Titia Hoekstra — Brampton, Ont. Sara, Eva Rena & Andy Deweerd — Georgetown, Ont. Christie, Jody Ed & Jackie Hoekstra — Almonte, Ont. Luke, Eileana, Kiera Ray Bill Home address: 1203 Queen St. W., R.R. #2, Brampton, ON L6V 1A1</p> <p>1941 May 9 1991 GERRIT and RIEK LUIMES With joy and thanksgiving to God, we announce the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents. May God continue to bless you and keep you in his care. Love and congratulations from all of us. Henk & Jane Luimes — Winchester Mark & Johanna, Brian, Lisa, Paul Al & Wilma Mulder — Nepean Grant & Michelle, Mike & Sandra (fiancee) John & Jeannie Luimes — Willowdale Steven, Kevin, David Bill & Bonnie Luimes — Ottawa Julie, Tracy Jack & Joyce Luimes — Ottawa Glen, Vicki Tom & Greta Luimes — Kanata Shannon, Shawn Albert & Carolyn Luimes — Renfrew Timothy, Jonathan, Matthew, Annalisa Ed Luimes & Stephanie (girlfriend) — Spencerville Family and friends are invited to join us at an open house on Friday, May 10, 1991, at 8 p.m. at the Matilda Community Hall, Dixon's Corners, Ont. Home address: R.R. #3, Spencerville, ON K0E 1X0</p>	<p>For Rent</p> <p>Smithville, Ont.: Newer home, three bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath, dishwasher, fenced yard, garage. Available May 1, \$800 plus utilities. Call (416) 577-5842.</p> <p>For Rent</p>

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Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Obituaries	Obituaries	Employment wanted
		<p>"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Is. 55:9, 10).</p> <p>In his infinite wisdom, our heavenly Father suddenly called home, on Feb. 26, 1991, our dear friend, choir member and board member,</p> <p>BERTHA SIKKENS</p> <p>As she sang praises to God here on earth, now she continues to sing in the heavenly choir, eternally praising our Lord. We miss her and pray God will give her family the strength and comfort they need.</p> <p>"Soli Deo Gloria" choir, Fenwick, Ont.</p> <p>Delft Oct. 21, 1903 Thunder Bay Apr. 7, 1991</p> <p>ANTJE EYGENRAAM-VAN OOSTEN</p> <p>exchanged her earthly tent for her heavenly home, following her husband, Simon Eygenraam (1985), son-in-law Ak Takasaki, and four grandchildren.</p> <p>"Save in the arms of Jesus" — one of the many songs she sang and which is now reality for her and why we celebrate.</p> <p>Her children:</p> <p>Joanne & Bob Van Dyke — Newmarket, Ont.</p> <p>George & Ann Eygenraam — Dunnville, Ont.</p> <p>Frank & Janny Eygenraam — St. Thomas, Ont.</p> <p>Audrey Van Dyke — Kaministiquia, Ont.</p> <p>Ann & Jetse Hamstra — Brantford, Ont.</p> <p>Simon & Corrie Eygenraam — Brampton, Ont.</p> <p>Gerrie & John Kizebrink — Kaministiquia, Ont.</p> <p>Elsie Takasaki — Burnaby, B.C.</p> <p>Lena & Wiebe Tjepkema — Langley, B.C.</p> <p>Henry & Mary Eygenraam — Unionville, Ont.</p> <p>47 grandchildren and 48 great-grandchildren.</p> <p>The funeral service was held in Brampton on Friday, April 12, 1991. Rev. P. Van Egmond officiating.</p> <p>Correspondence address: George A. Eygenraam, R.R. #1, Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1</p>	<p>"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38, 39).</p> <p>After a courageous struggle against cancer, the Lord took to himself our beloved husband, dear father, son, brother, and brother-in-law,</p> <p>NICK VREUGDENHIL</p> <p>in his 48th year.</p> <p>Surviving are his wife Marg (nee Veldstra); children, Martin, Peggy, David; mother, Mrs. Cornelia Vreugdenhil; brothers and sisters: Frances & Tom Alkema; Kees & Liz Vreugdenhil; Jim & Chris Vreugdenhil; Lena & Pete Kiers; nephew and nieces.</p> <p>Nick was a testimony of God's grace in his life during his long illness. He worked as a Real Estate agent and was a member and elder of Shalom Chr. Ref. Church, Brantford, Ont.</p> <p>The funeral took place in Brantford on April 13, 1991.</p> <p>Correspondence may be sent to Marg Vreugdenhil, 21 Terrance Ave., Brantford, ON N3R 3G2</p> <p>On April 11, 1991, the Lord called to his eternal home to be with him forever our dear son-in-law, brother-in-law and uncle,</p> <p>NICKOLAAS VREUGDENHIL</p> <p>after a one year and three month struggle with cancer, at the age of 47. Beloved husband of Margaret and dearly loved father of Martin (11), Peggy (10) and David (8).</p> <p>Bertus & Jansje Veldstra — Fruitland, Ont.</p> <p>Ria & Jim Wharrie — Stoney Creek, Ont.</p> <p>Lynn-Ann, Wendy, James Albert & Akiko — Toronto, Ont.</p> <p>Our prayer is that Margaret and the children may find comfort in the words of the song which Nick asked to sing in church a few weeks ago and which we sang at his funeral in Brantford on April 13, 1991, with Rev. L. Batterink officiating:</p> <p><i>God sent his Son, they called him Jesus He came to love, heal and forgive He lived and died to buy my pardon An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.</i></p> <p><i>Because he lives, I can face tomorrow Because he lives all fear is gone Because I know he holds the future And life is worth the living just because he lives.</i></p> <p><i>And then one day I'll cross the river I'll fight life's final war with pain And then, as death gives way to victory I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives.</i></p> <p>Correspondence address: A. Veldstra, 251 McNeilly Rd., Fruitland, ON L0R 1L0</p>	<p>Position wanted: Experienced administrator and teacher 27 year elementary - university experience. Want to work in a Christian education setting. Relevant subject areas: Social Sciences, Geography/History, Guidance, Counseling, Physical Education, Coaching. Permanent Alberta and Saskatchewan Teaching Certificates. Ph.D. from Colorado State University. Contact (306) 254-4456 or (306) 249-3380. Fax: (306) 249-1933. Will relocate.</p>
				<h3>Help Wanted</h3> <p>Experienced TRAVEL CONSULTANT required immediately. Dutch language an asset. Sabre an asset. Write a short resume and reply to File #2562, c/o Calvinist Contact, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1</p>
				<h3>Summer Job Market</h3> <p>Acton, Ont.: Experience in sales of masonry products. Third year marketing student. 21-years old. Would like to work in sales field, but will take anything for the summer. Call: Anthony Looyenga at (519) 853-0758.</p> <p>Bowmanville, Ont.: Athletic, country girl going into Grade 11. Has experience on apple, sheep and fruit & veg. farms. Wouldn't mind trying some sort of camp-counselling, assistant counsellor, etc. But willing to do almost anything! Contact: Gena Jaspers-Fayer, R.R #4 (3326) Bragg Rd., Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K6 (416) 623-2634.</p> <p>Bowmanville, Ont.: 16-year-old, Grade 11 male looking for work in farming or construction during the summer months. Have experience in bricklaying (labourer) and farmwork. Also have driver's licence. Richard Wessels, R.R. #4, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K5. Phone: (416) 623-8521.</p> <p>Grimsby, Ont.: DORDT COLLEGE student (3rd year English major, journalism) is looking for a job during the summer months. Many years of experience in greenhouse and nursery work, but prefers study related work. Dirk B. Schouten (416) 945-5335.</p> <p>Hamilton, Ont.: Redeemer student seeks employment in Hamilton area. Experienced in desktop publishing (IBM and Mac), layout design, cartooning and word processing. Carl at (416) 648-2131, ext. 320.</p> <p>Lucknow, Ont.: I have experience on a dairy farm, would like to work on a dairy or beef farm. Alex Hartemink, age 16, R.R. #5, Lucknow, ON N0G 2H0. Phone: (519) 395-5227.</p> <p>Oshawa, Ont.: Hi, I'm a 21-year-old Sir Wilfred Laurier University student (Political Science, 2nd yr.) looking for office experience. Good typing and number keying skills, am familiar with computers but would like to learn more. Will consider any office job. Available Apr. 29. Please surprise me! Call Connie at (416) 728-1348.</p> <p>St. Catharines, Ont.: 21-year-old female university student is looking for work and accommodation during the summer in the Niagara Peninsula area. Has experience as store clerk, waitress, and caring for children. Also willing to "housesit" while you are on vacation. References available. Can start May 1. Please call St. Catharines (416) 935-3509 or Waterloo (519) 746-2076, after 6 o'clock and ask for Kimberly.</p>
				<h3>Personal</h3> <p>Christian professional businessman, age 32, would like to meet a sincere, attractive, outgoing Christian lady for friendship. Please call Tony at 1-(416) 858-2854. Will accept all collect calls.</p>
				<h3>Accommodations</h3> <p>Accommodation: We are looking for a Christian female to share a house in Vineland, Ont. Available any time. Please call (416) 892-1242 (day time) or (416) 562-4983 (after 7 p.m.).</p> <p>Accommodation: Looking for female roommate, downtown Toronto. \$300 per month (includes utilities). Please call (416) 538-4615 or (416) 429-2866 and ask for Audrey.</p>



Congratulations to Ben and Diana Knoops (nee Kersaen) who will celebrate

D.V. their 60th wedding anniversary on May 7, 1991

Winsum(Gr.) Brampton(Ont.)
1931 May 7 1991

With thankfulness and praise to the Lord, we announce the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

BEN and DIANA KNOOPS
(nee Kersaen)

We pray that the Lord will continue to hold you in the palms of his hands.

An open house is planned on May 11, 1991, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Trinity rec. room in Holland Christian Homes.

Eileen & Hank Wilbrink — San Jose, Calif.

Lisa, Craig, Sandra, Rick Trudy & Julius Fitz — Port Alberni, B.C.

Ron Maat, Rick Maat, Margaret Maat

Pete & Swannee Knoops — Tewksbury, Mass.

Peter and Julian, Wayne, Robert John & Barbara Knoops — Vernon, Conn.

Michael, Lory, Brian and four great-grandchildren.

Home address: Holland Christian Homes, Trinity Tower, 7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., Apt. 614, Brampton, ON L6V 3N2

Obituaries

Sept. 11, 1921 March 31, 1991 Lord's Day 1

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

On Easter Sunday, the Lord called home his beloved child,

HENDRIK(HENRY)DENBOK

at his residence in his 70th year. Beloved husband of Jane Denbok (nee Oskam).

Dear father of:

Helen & Tony

Mary-Anne

Ruth & John

Jane & George

Pauline & Peter

Anne & Bob

John & Cindy

Predeceased by a son, David, and a grandson, Hendrik.

Beloved grandfather of 11 grandchildren.

Correspondence address: 414 Rosslyn Drive, Burlington, ON L7N 1S6

Obituaries

May 17, 1930-April 3, 1991

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will act" (Ps. 37:5).

Unexpectedly, yet at the time appointed before the creation of the world, our Lord, in his infinite wisdom, took home our beloved husband, father and stepfather,

WILLIAM BAARTSE

beloved husband of Eef J. (Hekman) Baartse, formerly Huinink, and the late Aaltje (Denbok) Baartse.

Dear father of:

Helena & Burt Winkel — Brampton, Ont.

Phyllis & William Tamminga — Wyoming, Ont.

James Baartse — London, Ont.

Dear stepfather of:

Joyce & Rob van Amerongen — Beamsville, Ont.

Gerald Huinink & Lisa van Yken (fiancee) — Burlington, Ont.

Henriette & John Hofsink — Beamsville, Ont.

Bernie Huinink — Burlington, Ont.

Ron Huinink — Burlington, Ont.

Also the dear grandfather of 10 grandchildren.

Correspondence address: 2388 St. Frances Drive, Burlington, ON L7P 1V4

Dec. 20, 1904 Apr. 10, 1991

On April 10, 1991, the Lord called home his child, our husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather,

PETER JOHN VANDOLDER

Beloved husband for almost 60 years of Lois (Loite) Posthumus.

Dear father of:

Wietse & Corrie VanDolder — Annan, Ont.

Corrie DeBoer — Owen Sound, Ont.

Hennie & Andy VanDyk — Owen Sound, Ont.

Andy & Lucille VanDolder — Annan, Ont.

Predeceased by one son-in-law Arend DeBoer.

Lovingly remembered by 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Psalm 68:19, 20.

Home address: Annan, ON N0H 1B0

Obituaries

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Is. 55:9, 10).

In his infinite wisdom, our heavenly Father suddenly called home, on Feb. 26, 1991, our dear friend, choir member and board member,

BERTHA SIKKENS

As she sang praises to God here on earth, now she continues to sing in the heavenly choir, eternally praising our Lord. We miss her and pray God will give her family the strength and comfort they need.

"Soli Deo Gloria" choir, Fenwick, Ont.

Delft Oct. 21, 1903 Thunder Bay Apr. 7, 1991

ANTJE EYGENRAAM-VAN OOSTEN

exchanged her earthly tent for her heavenly home, following her husband, Simon Eygenraam (1985), son-in-law Ak Takasaki, and four grandchildren.

"Save in the arms of Jesus" — one of the many songs she sang and which is now reality for her and why we celebrate.

Her children:

Joanne & Bob Van Dyke — Newmarket, Ont.

George & Ann Eygenraam — Dunnville, Ont.

Frank & Janny Eygenraam — St. Thomas, Ont.

Audrey Van Dyke — Kaministiquia, Ont.

Ann & Jetse Hamstra — Brantford, Ont.

Simon & Corrie Eygenraam — Brampton, Ont.

Gerrie & John Kizebrink — Kaministiquia, Ont.

Elsie Takasaki — Burnaby, B.C.

Lena & Wiebe Tjepkema — Langley, B.C.

Henry & Mary Eygenraam — Unionville, Ont.

47 grandchildren and 48 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held in Brampton on Friday, April 12, 1991. Rev. P. Van Egmond officiating.

Correspondence address: George A. Eygenraam, R.R. #1, Dunnville, ON N1A 2W1

Obituaries

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38, 39).

After a courageous struggle against cancer, the Lord took to himself our beloved husband, dear father, son, brother, and brother-in-law,

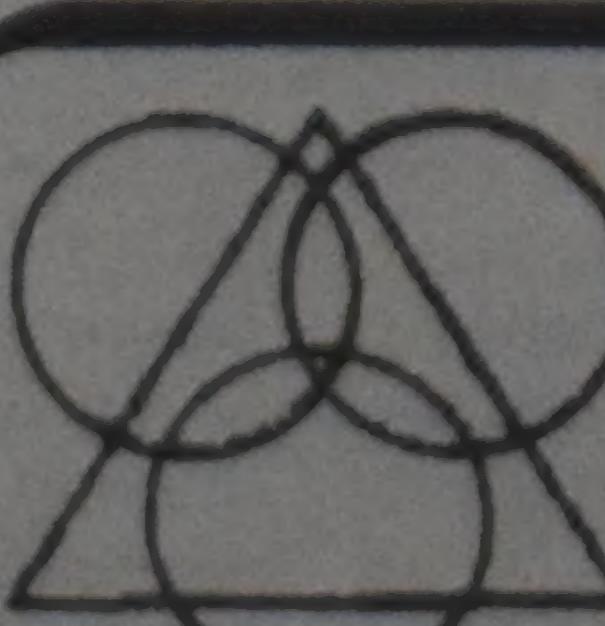
NICK VREUGDENHIL

in his 48th year.

Surviving are his wife Marg (nee Veldstra); children, Martin, Peggy, David; mother, Mrs. Cornelia Vreugdenhil; brothers and sisters: Frances & Tom Alkema; Kees & Liz Vreugdenhil; Jim & Chris Vreugdenhil; Lena & Pete Kiers; nephew and nieces.

N

Classified

Summer Job Market	Teachers	Teachers	Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous
<p>ST. CATHARINES, Ont.: McMaster student is eager to find summer employment. Prefer office work (computer, etc.) but I'm open to doing other things as well. Call Dave at (416) 935-4026.</p> <p>Smithville, Ont.: Able-bodied, 17-year old SDCH student (graduating in June) urgently needs summer work so he can save up to go to Dordt College next September. Will tackle just about anything. Are you interested? Please call Phil at (416) 957-0781.</p> <p>Smithville, Ont.: Hi, I'm a 15-year old SDCH student looking for any part-time work during the summer, as well as after school hours and on Saturdays. Please make my day! Call Charleen at (416) 957-0781.</p> <p>TORONTO, Ont.: Second-year female Redeemer student, 19 years old, seeks employment in Toronto area. Experienced with young children and infants, minor cooking, housekeeping and gardening, but eager and willing to learn new skills. Call Liesje at (416) 648-2131, ext. 320, or, after April 26, at (416) 223-8380.</p> <p>VANCOUVER: B.C.: I am a 24 year old social work student (3rd year) seeking employment in the social services in the Greater Vancouver area. I have experience working with the mentally disabled, elderly and troubled youth. Call Mary-Anne at (604) 434-8776.</p>	<p>BRANTFORD, Ont.: Brantford Christian School invites applications for a definite opening in a combined Grade 2-3, as well as possible openings in higher grades for 1991-92. Please send application and resume to: Mr. C. VanderVeen, Principal, Brantford Christian School, 7 Calvin St., Brantford, ON N3S 3E4. Phone: (519) 752-0433.</p> <p>BRESLAU, Ont.: Woodland Chr. High School invites applications for possible openings in Music, English, Math, Computers, Art, French and Geography, starting Sept. 1991. Please send letters of application and resumes to W.C.H.S., R.R. 1, Breslau, ON N0B 1M0. Tel. (519) 648-2114.</p> <p>FORT McMURRAY, Alta.: Fort McMurray Christian School Society is preparing to open an accredited Christian School which will be serving Grades 1-8, beginning September, 1991. We are accepting applications for teacher positions. Applicants should have a minimum of three years experience, including experience in a multi-grade classroom situation. (The number of grades will be dependent on the grades of the students enrolled.) The applicants must hold a valid provincial teaching certificate. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please submit resume to: F.M.C.S.S., 135 Highfield St., Fort McMurray, AB T9H 3T1</p> <p>GEORGETOWN, Ont.: Georgetown District Christian School has a definite opening for a Grade 7 teacher with a Music and/or Phys. Ed specialty and also a definite opening for a 40% remedial position. For information or application please contact: Treena Sybersma, Principal, R.R. #1, Georgetown, ON L7G 4S4. Phone: (416) 877-4221 (school); (416) 877-2707 (home).</p> <p>HOUSTON, B.C.: Houston Christian School, located in the beautiful Bulkley Valley of north central B.C. has 3 Elementary teaching positions open. Please address all inquiries to Mr. Doyle Smiens, Principal, Box 237, Houston, B.C. Phone (604) 845-7736.</p> <p>OTTAWA, Ont.: Redeemer Christian High School invites applications for possible positions in French, History, Bible, Computer, Mathematics, Physics and Physical Education. Join a dynamic team, serving an interdenominational community. Contact: Derek Maggs, Principal, 900 Merrivale Rd., Ottawa, ON K1Z 5Z8. Tel.: (613) 722-1175.</p>	<p>RED DEER, Alta.: Red Deer Christian School, an interdenominational school, providing Christ-centred education for this medium-sized central Alberta city, has possible openings in both our junior-high and primary divisions. Interested people should direct inquiries and/or applications to: Mr. R. Duggan, Principal, Red Deer Christian School, 14 McVicar St., Red Deer, AB T4N 0M2. Tel.: (403) 346-5795.</p> <p>RICHMOND, B.C.: Richmond Chr. School is seeking an experienced educator, Vice-Principal, to join our staff of 25 teachers. The applicant must have a vision for dynamic Christ-centred education, an ability to provide direction and leadership, as well as a willingness to grow in his truth. Courses in Educational Administration would be an asset. Currently our school teaches 335 students on two campuses (K-7, 8-10). The starting date for the successful applicant is negotiable. Please submit your personal statement of faith, along with your resume to Mrs. N. Koopmans, Education Committee, Richmond Chr. School, 5240 Woodwards Road, Richmond, BC V7E 1H1</p> <p>RIMBEY, Alta.: Rimbev Chr. School invites applications for two openings in the K-6 area. Interested applicants, please send inquiries or resume to: Mr. Henry Vandermeer, Principal, Rimbev Chr. School, Box 1305, Rimbev, AB T0C 2J0</p> <p>ST. CATHARINES, Ont.: Beacon Christian High School invites applicants to apply for openings/possible openings in Bible and Science. Send letter of application complete with resume to: Mr. Peter Van Huizen, Principal, 2 O'Malley Dr., St. Catharines, ON L2N 6N7</p> <p>SMITHVILLE, Ont.: "Come to the heart of Niagara." Smithville Covenant Christian School would like to receive applications for a Grade 1 opening for September, 1991. Please send resume to: Mr. B. Van Hoffen, Principal, Smithville Covenant Christian School, 6470 Regional Rd. 14, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0. Tel.: (416) 957-7796</p> <p>UTTERSON, Ont.: Muskoka Chr. School welcomes applications from teachers interested in Grade 2/3 classroom. Our continued growth has made this position available. Please call Bill Fitch, Principal at (705) 385-2847 (school) or (705) 645-8276 (home) or send resume to the school at Box #150, Utterson, ON P0B 1M0</p>	<p><i>For new dimensions of understanding appreciation...</i></p> <p>Correspondence Courses</p> <p>CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BASIS CURRICULUM • GOALS PRACTICE <p>By Dr. H. Van Brummelen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for Board members, teachers, parents • We give you credit for learning <p><i>For detailed information write to:</i></p> <p>Dr. Robert E. Vander Vennen, ICS by Correspondence 229 College Street, Suite 401 Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R4</p>	<p>Summer Job Market</p> <p>Attention: All Students</p> <p>We know that many of you are thinking about summer jobs at this time. As in previous years, <i>Calvinist Contact</i> will carry the Summer Job Market section in the Classifieds. We urge you to check this section from March 15 until May 31. Send us your announcement, and include name, age, address, phone number, experience and type of work you are seeking. This service is free of charge. We have only one request: Please cancel the ad as soon as you have found employment so that you don't use up valuable space needlessly.</p> <p>Good job hunting!</p> <p>Stand de Jong, Manager</p>
<p>Teachers</p> <p>AGASSIZ, B.C.: Agassiz Christian School invites applications for the following positions: 1 primary/intermediate position (50% kindergarten/50% administration relief including French) 1 intermediate position (combined Grade 4/5). Interested applicants, please send resume and/or inquiries to: Mr. Rick Esselink, Principal, Agassiz Christian School, Box 323, Agassiz, BC V0M 1A0. Phone: (604) 796-9310 (school); (604) 796-3209 (home); fax: (604) 796-2952.</p> <p>AYLMER, Ont.: Immanuel Christian School invites applications for a possible opening in a Grade 2 classroom. Send letter of application and resume to: Andy Vander Ploeg, Principal, Immanuel Christian School, 75 Caverly Rd., Aylmer, ON N5H 2P6 or call (519) 773-8476 (school) or (519) 773-5009 (home).</p> <p>BRAMPTON, Ont.: John Knox Christian School seeks applications for two positions for the 1991/92 school year. Needed are: an Intermediate teacher and one teacher for a grade level to be determined. French and music an asset. All interested in applying, please forward application and resume to: Mr. I. Witteveen, Principal, John Knox Chr. School, 82 McLaughlin Rd. S., Brampton, ON L6Y 2C7. Phone: (416) 451-3236.</p> <p>MEDICINE HAT, Alta.: Medicine Hat Christian School invites applications for a Grade 2, as well as an E.C.S. (Early Childhood Services) position for the 1991/92 school year. Qualifications in music will be an asset. Medicine Hat Chr. School is an interdenominational school and has an enrolment of 140 students from E.C.S. to Grade 9. Please submit application and resume to Mr. Wm. Slofstra, Principal, Medicine Hat Chr. School, 68 Rice Dr. S.E., Medicine Hat, AB T1B 3X2. Phone: school (403) 526-3248; home (403) 526-7192.</p>	<p>Centennial Christian School Terrace, B.C.</p>  <p>Applications are presently being accepted for positions in:</p> <p>PRIMARY — K, 1 (experience an asset) INTERMEDIATE — possible openings in 6 or 7 Opportunity for a teacher with music/band ability</p> <p>Centennial is a rapidly growing interdenominational school with a current enrolment of 170 students and 10 teachers (K-8). We hope to add Grade 9 in September 1991.</p> <p>Send applications, resume and references to:</p> <p>Frank Voogd 3608 Sparks St., Terrace BC V8G 2A5 Phone: (604) 635-6173</p>	<p>JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WOODSTOCK, ONT.</p> <p>has definite openings in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 6, 7 and 8 • Vice-principal with some relief time • Learning assistance teacher • Possible primary position <p>Please send your inquiries and/or resumes to:</p> <p>Mr. Henry Tuininga, Principal John Knox Christian School P.O. Box 243 Woodstock, ON N4S 7W8 Phone: (519) 539-1492</p>	<p>Pacific Christian Secondary School Victoria, B.C.</p> <p>will have definite openings in Biology/Junior Science and Home Economics for the 1991/92 school year. There is a possibility of a combined Home Economics/General Business position, depending on enrolment. In addition, there is a definite opening in Boys' Physical Education. Please send letter and resume to:</p> <p>Mr. John Messelein, Secondary Principal 654 Agnes St. Victoria, BC V8Z 2E6 Phone: (604) 479-4532 Fax: 479-3511</p>	<p>Stouffville Christian School</p> <p>requires teachers for the following full-time positions, beginning September, 1991 (Ontario teachers certificate or equivalent required):</p> <p>Primary — Junior div. in the area of French Intermediate — Senior div. in the area of French Senior div. in the area of Mathematics and Science Grade 7 Core and Social Science</p> <p><i>Please send your resume to:</i></p> <p>The Principal, Stouffville Christian School R.R. #3, Claremont, ON L0H 1E0 Tel.: (416) 640-3297</p>

Classified/Events

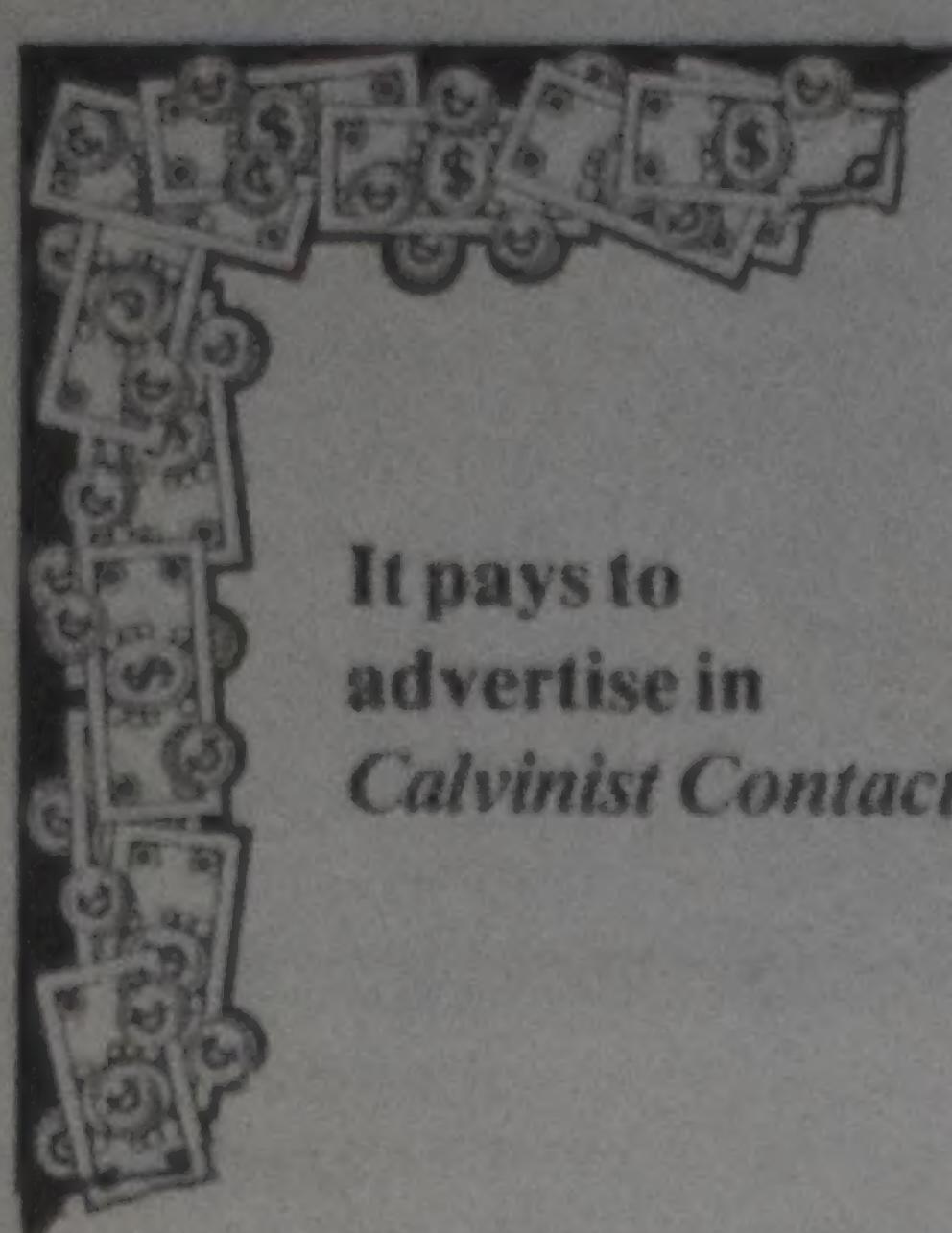
Events

ORTHODOX REFORMED CHURCH OF KELOWNA

Worship services
10:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
at
1134 Bernard Ave.
P.O. Box 5153
Kelowna, BC V1Y 8T9

Evenings phone:
(604) 768-4258

Miscellaneous



It pays to
advertise in
Calvinist Contact

Church news

Christian Reformed Church

Change in service time

Bethel, Brockville, Ont. will hold its Sunday evening services at 6 p.m. (instead of 7 p.m.), effective immediately. Throughout July and August services will return to 7 p.m.

Events

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

CALVIN SEMINARY OPENING

At its February, 1991, meeting the **Calvin College and Seminary Board of Trustees** declared a faculty opening in **New Testament**, due to the retirement of Professor Andrew J. Bandstra in 1992. Church councils and CRCNA classes are invited to suggest names for this opening by **October 15, 1991**. Suggestions by others and inquiries should be submitted by **August 30, 1991**. A position description and a list of qualifications are available from the seminary president, to whom all correspondence should be directed at **3233 Burton Street, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546**.

WORLD HOME BIBLE LEAGUE

a growing, inter-denominational Bible placement organization in Canada is looking for a:

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

effective: immediately

Requirements:

- a dedicated, mission-oriented Christian
- able to provide creative supervision to growing representational staff
- sales or presentational experience an asset
- good communicator (speaking and writing)
- able to meet Christian public across denominational lines

Full description of responsibilities available upon request.

Remuneration open to negotiations. Excellent benefit package available.

Please send your resume to:

Executive Director
World Home Bible League
Box 524, Stn. "A"
Weston, ON M9N 3N3
Tel: (416) 741-2140
Fax: (416) 741-8673

Events

Events

Full-time Staff Person Wanted

The Council of the Christian Reformed Church, Clinton, Ont., wishes to hire a full-time staff person (unordained) to work with our Pastor in ministering to the needs of our congregation. The job description is purposely left rather loose so the applicant will be a full partner in the process of determining the job description. The ministry areas that need attention are **youth, young adults, education, the wayward, pastoral care and outreach**. These tasks will be divided between the two staff persons according to the gifts of the persons involved.

Applicants, please write to:

Clinton Christian Reformed Church

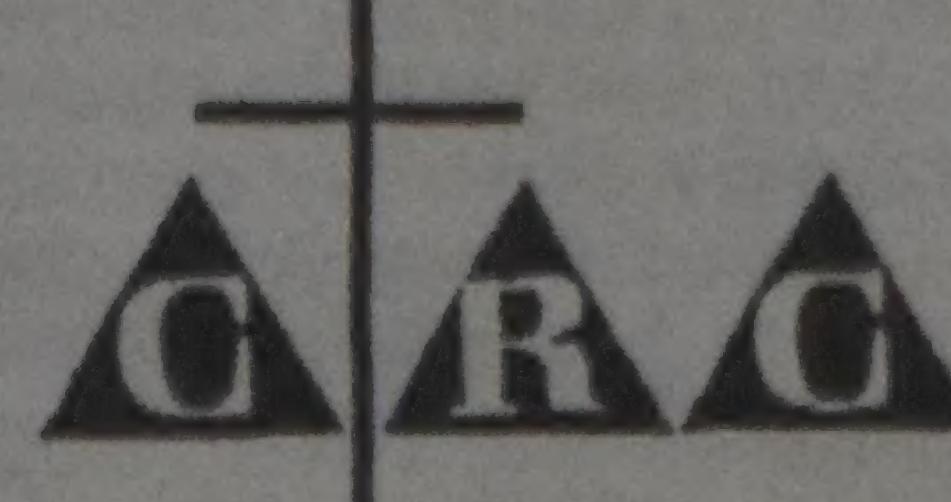
P.O. Box 697

Clinton, ON N0M 1L0

or phone Rev. Dirk Miedema, office: (519) 482-5264

home: (519) 482-5264

For more information call present part-time staff person,
Evangelist Walter DeRuiter (519) 364-2466.



CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

CHAPLAINCY VACANCY

A chaplaincy vacancy is expected to occur during the fall of 1991 in the correctional service of the province of **British Columbia**. Requirements for chaplaincy positions in that province are: denominational endorsement and three years pastoral experience.

Information can be obtained from:
Canadian Christian Reformed Chaplain Committee
Carl D. Tuyi, Secretary
342 Arrowhead Place, Kingston, ON K7M 3L3
(613) 549-2900

Events

Events

Events

Events



PHOTO: Courtesy Focus on the Family

LIFE CHAIN Vancouver

On Mother's Day, May 12, 1991, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., a LIFE CHAIN event will take place in Vancouver. Numerous churches throughout the Greater Vancouver area will be participating. Each church will be assigned a number of city blocks along a specified route that will link Vancouver's two abortuaries and Vancouver General Hospital, where several thousand abortions are performed annually.

The route covers a distance of approximately ten kilometres. Each participant will carry a sign stating that "Abortion Kills Children" or "Abortion Hurts Women." In

this way, there will be a continuous chain made up of thousands of Christians from a wide range of denominations proclaiming the sanctity of human life.

The purpose of this event is two-fold. The first is to unite the churches in speaking as one Christian mind to the "conscience of the Canadian nation."

The second purpose for the LIFE CHAIN is to be a witness for passing motorists and the general public. It is hoped that when passersby see kilometre after kilometre of people bearing witness to the facts of abortion, they will re-examine their thinking about abortion.

If your church would like to participate in the Vancouver LIFE CHAIN and has not yet been contacted, please phone (604) 534-4828 (John Hof) or (604) 521-4006 (John den Haan). Your prayers are earnestly sought for God's blessing on this event.

Why not
take advantage
of our events calendar
for your next event?

MEN ALIVE In Friendship

1991 MEN'S LIFE CONVENTION

July 19-21 at
Trinity Christian College
in Palos Heights, IL

Dr. David W. Smith,
author of *The Friendless American Male* and *Men Without Friends*, will be the featured speaker.
Choose from nine excellent sectionals. A golf outing and a tour of Chicago are available.

Registration fee:
\$99 per man.

Lodging:
\$13 per man per night.

For registration information call the Men's Life office toll-free at
1-800-777-7270 U.S.,
1-800-263-4252 Canada.

Classified/Events

Events

With Praise and Thanksgiving to God,
the Board of the Chatham Christian Schools
is pleased to recognize our teacher,

MR. BERNIE KRUISSELBRINK

for 25 years of faithful service
to Christian education in Chatham.

In honour of this anniversary
an OPEN HOUSE will be held
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1991 at
CHATHAM CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
90 Park Avenue E., Chatham

7:30-8:30 OPEN HOUSE
8:30-9:30 PROGRAM

All former students and colleagues
are cordially invited to celebrate with us.

See church news on page 18.

Help Wanted

Redeemer College



A
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Admissions Counsellor

This person will initiate and maintain
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programs, and encourage enrolment. Educational
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application, resume, and references to the
Human Resource Manager.

Ancaster, Ontario L9E 3N6 (416) 648-2131

DORDT COLLEGE

Faculty Opportunities

Dordt College has tenure-track openings for the 1991-92 academic year in the following fields:

ECONOMICS: Responsibilities include teaching introductory and upper-level courses and participating in a business seminar. A doctorate in economics or business is preferred, but a doctorate near completion will be considered.

DANCE AND VOICE PRODUCTION: Part-time openings in the department of theatre arts for (1) teaching two introductory courses in dance, (2) teaching one course in voice production, (3) possible production assignments in choreography, stage movement, acting, and voice. Applicants should possess an M.F.A.

SOCIAL WORK: Dordt has a CSWE-accredited B.S.W. program. Applicants should possess an M.S.W. and a minimum of two years post-M.S.W. practice experience.

Dordt College seeks to hire individuals who are committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy and have academic and personal qualifications for teaching and scholarship. Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until positions are filled. Send letter of interest and resume to:

Dr. Rockne McCarthy
Vice Pres. for Acad. Affairs
Dordt College
Sioux Center, Iowa 51250
Ph. (712) 722-6333



Dordt College complies with federal and state requirements for non-discrimination in employment. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Calendar of Events

Apr. 27	Mississauga Regional Holy Spirit Conference, Ebenezer Ref. Church, Mississauga , Ont. For info. call (416) 890-3222.	May 4	Piano recital by Ron Greidanus, 8 p.m., Eva Clare Hall, U. of M, 65 Dafoe, Winnipeg , Man.
April 27	Spring concert by the "Mountainview Singers," at 8 p.m., Mountainview CRC, Grimsby , Ont. Everyone welcome!	May 4	Organist Jan Sadler in concert, 8 p.m., Mountainview CRC, Grimsby , Ont. Works by Bach, Mozart, Elgar, Schumann, Bossi and others. Admission \$5.00 (\$12 for families).
Apr. 27	The King's College 1991 Convocation Ceremonies, at 7:30 p.m., All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton , Alta. Guest speaker: Dr. James Skillen.	May 8	Convention of the Can. Fed. of C.R. Women, 10 a.m., Bingemans Park, Kitchener , Ont. Speakers: Rev. Jacob D. Eppinga and Miss Fran Karneamaat.
Apr. 27	Spring concert featuring the "Bel Canto Choir" and the LPSC Children's Choir. At 7:30 p.m., Bethel CRC, London , Ont. Free will offering.	May 11	Concert by the Durham Chamber Choral Society, 8 p.m., St. Paul's Presb. Church, Port Hope , Ont.
Apr. 27	"Hymn Festival of Praise," a concert by four combined choirs of Woodstock, Ont., directed by Andrew Bouma. At 8 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Church, Dundas & Wellington, Woodstock , Ont. Organist: Jan Overduin; with the Woodstock Gospel Quartet "Testify." Free admission.	May 14	Seniors' Day at Hamilton District Chr. High School, Ancaster , Ont. From 10-2:30 p.m. Lunch provided. Speaker: Rev. J. W. Van Weelden. Please register by calling (416) 648-6655.
Apr. 27	Spring concert by the "Soli Deo Gloria" Choir, as well as Cambridge's "Maranatha Singers," at 8 p.m., First CRC, Sarnia , Ont.	May 17, 18, 19	Clinton's 11th Annual "Klompenfeest," At Clinton Community Park, Clinton , Ont. For info. call (519) 523-9559 or 482-5679.
Apr. 28	City-wide hymn sing at 8 p.m., First CRC, Sarnia , Ont. Special music: "Abundant Life Ensemble."	May 23, 24	Dan Veldman speaks on satanic and cultural deceptions of our age and the Christians' response, 8 p.m., Sir Allan MacNab Sec. School Auditorium, Hamilton , Ont. For info. call (416) 765-5259.
May 3	First annual fundraising banquet by the John Knox Chr. School, 6 p.m., at "Le Dome," Oakville , Ont. Speaker: Rev. J. G. Klomps. For info. call (416) 822-8131.	May 24	Famous Dutch soprano Elly Ameling, accompanied by pianist Rudolf Jansen, in concert, 8 p.m., Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto , Ont. Call RTH for tickets.
May 4	Ontario Friendship Conference, 8:30 a.m., Woodland Chr. High school, Breslau , Ont. For info. call Jane Malda (519) 884-6044 or Minnie Herfst (519) 578-0236.	May 25	Anniversary dinner of the Springdale Calvinette Club, 6 p.m., Springdale Fellowship Hall, Springdale , Ont. For info. call Carrie Kooy at (416) 775-2421.

See crossword puzzle on page 3.

Events



Clinton's

11 th Annual '91



Klompen Feest

MAY 17 - 18 - 19

FROM HOLLAND



HOE WE HETE ZIJN WE VERGETE



SPHERE CLOWN BAND

"FUN FOR EVERYONE"

FRIDAY	8:00 P.M. MULTI-MEDIA FILM - "A Taste of Holland"
SATURDAY	9:00-5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S ART FAIR
	11:00 A.M. GIANT PARADE - Including Bicycle Parade
	5:00-7:00 P.M. CHICKEN B.B.Q. - NEW - Children's Menu, 1-sitting only
	7:00 P.M. DUTCH PLAY - "Het Wespenest" - \$5.00 advance, \$6.00 at door
	9:00 P.M. WIND-UP DANCE - "Three Neat Guys" - D.J. - [\$5.00]
SUNDAY	2:00 P.M. ECUMENICAL "PRAISE AND WORSHIP" SERVICE

CLINTON COMMUNITY PARK

ADMISSION

Adults	\$5.00
Children [Under 12]	\$2.50
Babes-in-arms	Free
Barbecue and Dance tickets, plus	
Klompenfeest souvenirs available	
at Information Booth in Library Park.	
Play advance tickets available until 4:00 p.m.	
at Booth and Dutch store.	

OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES

Dutch Costume Contest	Fri
Crowning of the Burgemeester	Fri
Concession/Food Booths	Fri-Sat
Arts n' Crafts Tables	Fri-Sat
Wooden Shoe Maker	Sat
Grandstand Show	Sat-1-4 p.m.
Breakfast - each morning	Sat-Sun

For Bed & Breakfast addresses
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For information contact:
(519) 523-9559 or
(519) 482-5679

Books

Robert VanderVennen, book review editor

Science and faith

Is nature alive?

THE REBIRTH OF NATURE THE GREENING OF SCIENCE AND GOD



RUPERT SHELDRAKE

The Rebirth of Nature: The Greening of Science and God, by Rupert Sheldrake. New York: Bantam Books, 1991. ISBN 0-553-07105-X. Hardcover, 260 pp., \$26.95. Reviewed by Robert VanderVennen.

Scientists, like biochemist Sheldrake, are more and more

reflecting on the meaning of their research. Sheldrake is bothered by the secular model of the universe he was taught. He asks us to think along with him on a new model — no, an old model informed by new science.

The medieval (Christian) worldview, he says, was animistic. The Spirit of God

was in the world, in animals and all living things. People accepted mystery and magic and there were many sacred places.

But then came the Protestant reformers, and science began to be formed. The world was desacralized. It was no longer like a living organism but like a machine. Creation was seen as not alive but inanimate. There were laws which governed scientific events waiting to be discovered if men (and scientists were men) would be sufficiently rational and objective about it. They learned how to divide, separate and fragment in order to study. There was no *feeling* about science, and no explicit religion. The world was created for mankind and was to be subdued (Gen. 1:28) and used, and maybe even exploited. You could hear Descartes speak of a vast universe of matter in motion.

But that picture just won't do, says Sheldrake. Nature really is alive and is implicitly feminine. It needs to be re-sacralized; we must rediscover mysticism and spiritual power. We need to connect holistically rather than to fragment. The cosmos is really like a developing organism in which perhaps even the laws are changing. But maybe "laws of nature" isn't really the right phrase — "habits of nature" may be better. Because living organisms inherit *morphic fields* whose memories come to be known worldwide. For instance, if lab rats in America learn a new trick, soon lab rats all over the world know it without having been taught. "The God portrayed in the Bible," says Sheldrake, "was a God of living nature."

We can agree with Sheldrake in his criticism of the worldview of the classic scientists, the Bacons and Descartes. But that does not mean that we need to agree with his new views. We should caution people about accepting animistic views that fit New Age thinking too closely. But it would be too easy merely to criticize.

What we need are compelling presentations of a biblical worldview for science. We need to take seriously Sheldrake's criticisms and then, informed by what is known scientifically today, set forth what believers who are scientists understand about a world in God's hands. That will include dealing with the age of the universe and the question of evolutionary development, but will not get stuck on those topics, as our thinking is today. This is a communal task to which we should all rally.

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45 Harriet St., Toronto, ON M4L 2G1



Friends of God

Wayne Brouwer

The kiss of life

"Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other" (Psalm 85:10).

One of the few true "winners" in the Persian Gulf War was CNN. Maybe you didn't know what CNN meant before last January, but it would be hard to find anyone today who doesn't know what CNN — Cable News Network — is all about.

Cable News Network is the brainchild of Ted Turner. Last year when he spoke at the National Newspaper Association Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, Turner described himself rather immodestly as the "News King." The title probably fits, even if he's bold enough to claim it for himself.

But what really got the crowds going as Mr. Turner spoke was when he said that the Ten Commandments are obsolete. He said that they didn't relate anymore to the global problems in our world. "I bet nobody here even pays much attention to them," he said.

What do you think? Is he right? How would you answer him?

God is out

Before you get too far with that, let me tell you one more thing about Ted Turner. A couple of months ago he was the guest of honour at an awards banquet in Orlando, Florida. He received a prize that proclaimed him "Humanist of the Year."

After he took the trophy into his hands he gave a little speech. He told the people there how it was that he had become such a self-made man. He said that he was raised in a very "religious" home. His family attended worship each Sunday and prayed at the meal table. He even said prayers each night at his bedside. And he said that he'd always assumed there was a God. He always believed that God heard and answered his prayers.

Until one day.

Ted's sister got sick. The disease lingered on in her body. The doctors couldn't seem to do anything about it. So Ted said he did something about it: he prayed for his sister. He begged God in heaven to make her better.

But it didn't happen. His sister got worse and worse and finally died. And Ted Turner told his audience that that's the day he knew it: there's no God. What kind of God would have allowed his sister to suffer like that and then to die?!

And right then, he said, he decided that he would have to live the rest of his life depending only on himself. He was done with this God of the church, this God of the Bible, this unfeeling, phantom-like being.

At that moment, Ted Turner, the great "News King," broke down. He couldn't go on. With tears in his eyes, he backed away from the podium.

Can you guess what happened next? After a moment of deathly silence, the crowd jumped to its feet and erupted in wild applause! "Right on! At last somebody had the guts to say it! There's no God! And even if there is, we don't need him anymore!"

What kind of answer?

This is the great problem of faith, isn't it? None of us deserves good fortune, at least not from the perspective of cosmic evil. Still, if there is supposed to be a kind and loving God, why are we so often tossed to the whims of seemingly random and chaotic clutches of blessing or disaster? Why not feel the fires of hell we truly merit, or otherwise experience some benefits from our fairly decent existences? Why must pain and pleasure run such an odd three-legged race through our lives?

The Sons of Korah ask that question too, in Psalm 85. And they know that there are no real answers for them, at least none that will take away the hurt of the suffering heart, or the agony of their struggling kinfolk. Their only hope is a kiss. A kiss in which "righteousness and peace" meet and embrace. A kiss in which suffering is not removed by surgery, but healed with love. A kiss in which the drama of heaven and hell is played out to its final conclusion.

Theology isn't enough to explain what they're looking for. Neither is philosophy. That's probably why God didn't drop a textbook of psychological explanations from heaven in answer to their questions.

He dropped himself instead.

Ted Turner still hurts. So did the Sons of Korah. But sometimes a kiss is what we need more than an answer.

Wayne Brouwer is a pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in London, Ont.